

Northwestern University Researcher Interviewed About Participating In NIH All Of Us Research Program.

The Chicago Tribune (6/11, Schencker, 2.37M) reports on an interview with Northwestern University research assistant professor Joyce Ho, who discussed the university's role in the All of Us Research Program, noting that the Illinois Precision Medicine Consortium – of which the university is a member – “has received \$51 million from the National Institutes of Health to gather data and samples from 93,000 volunteers over the next five years.” Ho examined precision medicine's comprehensive approach to analyzing health, how the program will work, and its potential implications for the future of medical treatment.

Editorial: NCI Cancer Immunotherapy Study Has Applications For New Pittsburgh Therapy Center.

In an editorial, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (6/12, 507K) applauds the findings of a recent study led by National Cancer Institute researcher Steven A. Rosenberg which showed “success in using a type of immunotherapy to treat metastatic breast cancer in a Florida woman.” The Post-Gazette heralds the findings as the kind “of lifesaving [breakthrough] that could be possible at a new immunotherapy center planned for Pittsburgh” called the UPMC Immune Transplant and Therapy Center. The editorial says NCI researchers identified some of

the woman's "immune cells that seemed able to fight the cancer, multiplied them and infused them into her." Rosenberg is quoted as saying, "All cancers have mutations, and that's what we're attacking with this immunotherapy. ... It is ironic that the very mutations that cause the cancer may prove to be the best targets to treat the cancer."

House Panel Questions FDA's Efforts To Track Illegal Opioids.

Reuters (6/11, Lynch) reports members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee sent a letter to Food and Drug Administrator Scott Gottlieb questioning whether the agency was "doing enough to stop the flow of illegal drugs" into the US as the nation battles the opioid epidemic. Republican Chairman Greg Walden (OR) and ranking Democrat Frank Pallone (NJ) wrote, "We have concerns about whether the FDA is appropriately devoting its resources to prioritize these efforts against unapproved opioids." FDA spokeswoman Lyndsay Meyer confirmed the agency received the letter and planned to respond.

Experts Describe Federal Efforts To Prevent Foodborne Illnesses.

The Poughkeepsie (NY) Journal (6/11, Robinson, 111K) interviewed federal regulators and food-safety experts and surveyed public health data in an ongoing investigation of foodborne illness. Dr. Stephen

Ostroff, FDA deputy commissioner for foods, explained that with an outbreak, the task of sourcing breakouts is akin to an incomplete puzzle, saying, "the product that was consumed is no longer available to test and that makes it so much more difficult, even if we can trace it back through supply chain." The article notes that the "FDA conducted about 156,000 food-safety inspections across the country between 2010 and 2017," pointing out labeling gaps and that "insect, bird or vermin contamination was the most common critical deficiency."

Federal Court Bars Mississippi Compounding Pharmacy From Making, Distributing Drugs.

The Jackson (MS) Clarion Ledger (6/11, 287K) reports that the Justice Department announced that a federal court has barred a compounding pharmacy, Delta Pharma Inc in Ridley, Mississippi, and two of its officers from distributing adulterated drugs under a consent decree. The defendants cannot manufacture, hold, or distribute drugs until the FDA notifies them in writing that "they appear to be in compliance with...specific remedial measures." Last year, the FDA uncovered "numerous unsanitary conditions" during an inspection, prompting the legal case.

The Washington Times (6/11, Mordock, 460K) reports the FDA inspectors "noted numerous unsanitary practices including using tubes that may not have been sterilized to process drugs" and "did not take steps to ensure chemicals or particles from the tubes would contaminate the medicines, according to court documents."

Opioid Crisis

Naloxone Use To Expand Among Police Departments, School Campuses In San Diego County.

The San Diego Union-Tribune (6/7, Hernandez, 664K) reports that “almost all police departments in” San Diego County “intend to supply their officers with naloxone, including the police forces for some universities and colleges,” amid “efforts to prevent opioid overdose deaths.” The article spotlights police departments in San Diego County that have “stocked up on naloxone in the past year,” and notes that “the drug is available to school resource officers” at some schools.

Former Sen. Bill Frist Highlights Cigna’s Efforts To End Opioid Epidemic.

In an op-ed in The Tennessean (6/11, 513K), Bill Frist, a former Senate majority leader in Middle Tennessee, states that “private sector health insurers...have a role to play” in ending the opioid epidemic, highlighting Cigna as “a company that is demonstrating real leadership” in this effort. Frist states Cigna “recently announced that it achieved a 25% reduction in opioid use among its customers,” and “the gains were achieved through collaboration with 1.1 million prescribing clinicians using an integrated analysis of pharmacy, medical, and mental health benefits to personalize the level of customer care.” Frist says that it is also necessary to educate physicians on “non-addictive alternatives to manage pain,” change “federal reimbursement rates that incentivize opioid prescribing over non-addictive alternatives,” make it easier for people to access and afford addiction rehabilitation and mental health treatment, and facilitate treatment for people who have active addictions.

Mental Illness

Word Choice May Be Indicative Of Depression, Studies Involving Linguistic Analysis Programs Suggest.

The Wall Street Journal (6/11, Bernstein, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) reports that according to certain linguistic analysis programs, particular words may indicate someone is suffering from depression, based on findings from several studies published in psychological journals.

Prescription Drug Pricing

Drugmaker Reboots Female Libido Drug At Half Price.

Bloomberg News (6/11, Koons, 4.46M) reports Sprout Pharmaceuticals is relaunching its drug, Addyi, the "first-ever" FDA "approved drug for low libido in women," at a price point that is half of what it once was. Bloomberg points out that the price cut is "a rare step" in the industry, as "drugs typically go up in price on an annual basis, sometimes even twice a year." The "prescription carries a boxed warning" that requires women taking Addyi "to sign an agreement acknowledging the risk of drinking while taking the drug."

Drug Pricing Advocates Condemn Democrats For Supporting Drug Industry.

STAT Plus (6/11, Mershon, Subscription Publication, 27K) reports 50 congressional Democrats endorsed a letter which a drug pricing advocacy group, Patients for Affordable Drugs, claims advances the pharmaceutical industry's "talking points." The advocacy group responded by letter Monday to House Speaker Paul Ryan, Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, and the 50 Democrats "condemning" their support for changing the "financial liability in the so-called 'donut hole,'" which is one of the industry's "chief lobbying priorities."

Health Care & Insurance Reform

Dems, Who Once Shied Away From Healthcare, Are Hoping The Issue Will Propel Them To Victory In The Midterms.

The Los Angeles Times (6/11, Barabak, 4.03M) reports that for years,

Democrats have been shying away from the issue of healthcare “as though it were a heap of flaming rubble, which, politically speaking, it was.” They lost control of Congress after the ACA was passed. But new polls indicate support for the ACA is “increasing as it becomes more imperiled, and the result has been a political sea change.” The article says criticism of “GOP repeal efforts has emboldened Democrats, who think they can seize back the House, dramatically expand coverage and turn healthcare from an albatross to an advantage even in red states like Idaho, with the help of Republicans like Christy Perry.”

Trump’s Opposition To Parts Of New VA Healthcare Law May Endanger Its Implementation.

Joe Davidson writes in the Washington Post (6/11, 15.68M) “Power Post” blog that President Trump said he was “very happy” to sign the VA Mission Act, which seeks to improve veterans’ healthcare. Since then, however, Trump has expressed dissatisfaction with portions of the law, and the Administration has “sent Congress a memo outlining objections to proposed funding measures for the new program.” According to a top Democrat, these “objections could lead the Department of Veterans Affairs to ‘cannibalize itself.’” Davidson adds that the new law includes “sweeping, historic changes,” as Trump said, yet “how the job gets done is now open to question because of the signing statement Trump issued after his Rose Garden statement and the administration’s opposition to certain funding measures.”

Experts Caution Against Use Of Cheaper Outpatient Surgical Centers.

Dr. Dhruv Khullar and Austin Frakt, director of the Partnered Evidence-Based Policy Resource Center at the VA Boston Healthcare System, write in the New York Times (6/11, Subscription Publication, 19.33M) "The Upshot" blog that while "cost variation across care settings has led policymakers to consider paying more evenly for medical services regardless of where they're delivered, and to shift care from expensive, high-intensity settings to cheaper, low-intensity ones," a study of Medicare hospitalizations "found that almost all patients are more likely to survive at teaching hospitals, which tend to be more expensive." Khullar and Frakt explain that "sometimes more is more." Outpatient surgical centers do not always have the resources and staff needed to handle potential complications, and teaching hospitals have more advanced technologies, "subspecialty expertise, more clinicians involved in care, and greater availability of ancillary services." Additionally, "research suggests that hospitals that spend more and do more may have better patient outcomes and lower mortality rates."

Less Than 10% Of American Adults Get Recommended Preventive Healthcare, Study Indicates.

Reuters (6/11, Lehman) reports that according to a new study surveying nearly 2,800 American adults over age 35, "only 8 percent were getting all of the highly recommended preventive services with the greatest potential for improving health." Reuters explains the survey

included questions “about the receipt of 15 high-priority preventive services including blood pressure and cholesterol checks, screening for osteoporosis and several cancers, counseling on tobacco use, obesity, alcohol use and depression, plus vaccinations and aspirin use.” The study was published online June 4 in Health Affairs.

Cisco, Other Large US Employers Trying To Manage Workers' Health To Control Costs.

Reuters (6/11, Humer) reports that Cisco Systems, Inc. is among “a handful of large American employers who are getting more deeply involved in managing their workers’ health instead of looking to insurers to do it.” Last year, the company “began offering its employees a plan it negotiated directly with nearby Stanford Health medical system,” and a clinic is located at Cisco’s San Jose campus. Reuters adds that other large companies, such as Amazon.com Inc., JPMorgan Chase &Co., and Berkshire Hathaway Inc. are “closely watching” whether these efforts pay off.

Opinion: Supreme Court Leaning In Favor Of Pro-Life Cause.

Father Frank Pavone, national director of Priests for Life, writes in an analysis for the Washington Examiner (6/11, 340K) that two recent

Supreme Court actions “indicate there are winds blowing in favor of the pro-life cause.” On May 29, the Court “declined to hear a case that sought to overturn an Arkansas law on chemical abortion” which “requires abortion providers to have contracts with physicians who have hospital admitting privileges.” On June 4, “the justices unanimously vacated an order of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit that had allowed a pregnant, undocumented minor in federal custody to have an abortion back in October.”

Midwest Has Fewest Abortion Clinics Per Woman Than Any Other Region, Study Indicates.

The Chicago Tribune (6/7, Lourgas, 2.37M) reports a new study published in the Journal of Medical Internet Research found that the Midwest has fewer abortion clinics than any other region in the United States based on the population of women of child-bearing age. According to the article, “Illinois – often referred to as an oasis for abortion care in the middle of the country – had an estimated 25 clinics, roughly one for every 120,135 women of reproductive age. In neighboring Wisconsin, by comparison, researchers found three facilities providing abortions, about one for every 423,590 women.”

Air Ambulance Companies Leave Patients With High Bills.

Bloomberg News (6/11, Tozzi, 4.46M) reports on the growing size of the air ambulance fleet in the US and the increasing cost of using an air ambulance for medical emergencies. Air ambulance operators believe that because "US government health programs, including Medicare and Medicaid, don't cover their expenses, they must ask others to pay more – and when health plans balk, patients get stuck with the tab." As a result of "favorable treatment under federal law," air-ambulance companies have "few restrictions on what they can charge for their services" and "states have no power to put in place their own curbs." According to the article, Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT) has "introduced legislation that would roll back the special status of air-ambulance companies." In addition, the FAA reauthorization bill passed by the House in April "would make medical services provided by air ambulances subject to state regulation."

Commentary Considers Health Reform.

Several outlets offer opinions on health reform.

In an editorial, the New York Times (6/11, Subscription Publication, 19.33M) argues that Democrats who hope "to make health care a centerpiece of midterm election campaigns just got a gift from the Trump administration," as the Justice Department has "declined to defend the Affordable Care Act against a lawsuit filed by 20 Republican-led states," and is "arguing for the repeal of enormously popular consumer protections, including coverage of pre-existing conditions." The Times concludes, "Add this latest move to a growing list of similar

efforts – eliminating the mandate tax penalty to begin with, allowing more short-term plans on the market – and it becomes clear where the administration’s priorities lie: not in helping more Americans get good health care, not even in supporting the will of the people, but in dismantling what some political opponents built, just for the sake of doing so.”

Catherine Rampell writes in her column in the Washington Post (6/11, 15.68M) that “if the GOP really thinks gutting protections for people with preexisting health conditions is good policy, they should pass a damn law.” Rampell points out that Republicans passed “literally dozens” of bills repealing the ACA while President Obama was in office, but then they “chickened out” last year “because they feared the blowback from voters.” Unable to take such action legislatively, the Trump Administration is attempting to have the courts declare that protections for pre-existing conditions are unconstitutional, she argues. Rampell calls all of the Republican lawmakers who are “keeping their heads down” amid these moves “cowards.”

Jennifer Rubin writes in the Washington Post (6/11, 15.68M) “Right Turn” blog that after failing to repeal the ACA, President Trump and congressional Republicans “have decided to make it worse and help states get rid of it in the courts.” She argues, “As a policy matter, their approach will cause hardship to Americans, especially rural Trump voters; as a political matter, it defies logic.” Rubin adds that “everything the Trump administration has done with regard to the ACA is designed to raise prices. Republicans’ refusal to reverse these steps will surely be fodder for Democrats in the midterms.”

In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (6/11, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) analyzes the position Republican candidates find themselves in

after failing to repeal the Affordable Care Act and with premiums expected to rise by double-digit percentage points in the run-up to the midterm elections. The Journal argues that despite finger-pointing by Democrats, the problems stem from the structure of the law itself, not the actions of the Trump Administration or the repeal of the individual mandate.

Michael Hiltzik writes in his Los Angeles Times (6/11, 4.03M) column that legal experts “who pay attention to the courthouse fortunes of the Affordable Care Act could tell something weird and bad was in the wind last Thursday, when three career attorneys at the Department of Justice abruptly withdrew from the team defending the law against a right-wing attack by Texas and 19 other red states.” Hiltzik asks, “Just how indefensible does an argument in a government brief have to be to cause all the career litigators...to withdraw?” He says while it may not be unusual for the government to refuse to defend a federal law, “it may be unprecedented for virtually the entire legal team representing the government in a case to withdraw en masse.”

Corey R. Lewandowski, who served as a campaign manager to Donald J. Trump, writes in an op-ed for The Hill (6/11, 2.71M) that President Trump “inherited a mess from his predecessors.” The biggest issue “is an entitlement time bomb that is soon to explode the national debt. Thankfully, President Trump is up for the task of entitlement reform.” Lewandowski adds that a conservative group has recommended that Congress “raise Social Security and Medicare retirement ages to account for increased life expectancies and work capacities; transition to a flat, anti-poverty benefit for future beneficiaries so that the programs do not pay the highest benefits to those with the least need; and reduce the payroll tax to allow individuals to save more on their own for retirement and disability.”

The New York Daily News (6/8, 3.71M) says in an editorial after failing to get Congress to repeal the ACA, the Trump Administration now wants "a judge to undo the rest of the law through the courts." The paper argues, "This is a brazen act of executive overreach. If it succeeds, it will endanger the coverage of thousands of sick Americans."

Contributor Sally Pipes writes in a Forbes (6/11, 10.34M) piece that in 2017, "Canada's single-payer healthcare system forced over 1 million patients to wait for necessary medical treatments." This was a new record. Pipes argues that long, costly "delays are the norm in Canada and other single-payer nations, which ration care to keep costs down. Yet more and more Democratic leaders are pushing for a single-payer system – and more and more voters are clamoring for one."

Charles Wallner, executive director of the Faith Community Alliance of Greater Cincinnati, writes in a Cincinnati Enquirer (6/11, 246K) op-ed that healthcare access through Medicaid "has been critical in helping Ohioans to enter the workforce and supporting them in their work." The state "should be focused on strengthening residents' connection to the preventive care and treatment that keeps them healthy and connected to the workforce. Instead, Ohio is pursuing a bad idea dressed up as health care reform."

The Charleston (WV) Gazette-Mail (6/11) editorializes that in 1992, West Virginia formed a study group to look at allowing anyone to buy into its Public Employees Insurance Agency. The editorial suggests the state should return to the idea once again because it could provide an economical "single-payer health care for everyone." The editorial argues that Republicans in Washington, DC, "aren't interested in fixing this" and the state should address health coverage on its own.

Human Services News

Experts: Don't Let Social Security Solvency Fears Affect Claiming Decision.

CNBC (6/11, 4.81M) reports the "Social Security Board of Trustees said the trust funds that help support the system will run out of money in 2034," but "experts say you should not let fear about the program's future affect your eventual claiming decision." They say they expect Congress to act to address that issue, and that retirees and near-retirees are unlikely to be affected. Additionally, if nothing is done, it won't be good, but it result in payouts of 75 to 80 cents on the dollar, not a complete stop of payments.

Compromise Social Security Reforms Suggested.

Robert Pozen, a senior lecturer at the MIT Sloan School of Management, in an op-ed in The Hill (6/11, 2.71M), predicts that, "given the intense

hostility between the parties, they are not likely to agree on a compromise package of reforms before Social Security is on the brink of insolvency" in 2034. Still, Pozen suggests a "compromise package of reforms" that include "a 2 percent surcharge on all earnings above the maximum earnings subject to the payroll tax without raising benefits"; increasing the "normal retirement age to 68 around 2040," indexing to increases in life expectancy; and "in calculating initial benefits at retirement, phase in a formula based on consumer price index growth over a worker's career for the top third of earners, who have other retirement plans subsidized by taxes and corporations."

Social Security Said To Face "Manageable Financing Shortfall."

Alicia H. Munnell writes in a column in MarketWatch (6/11, 1.49M), "The 2018 Social Security Trustees Report, released last week, shows that the program faces a 75-year deficit of 2.84 percent of taxable payrolls – virtually unchanged from last year's projection of 2.83." The deficits are partly due to "a worsening of economic assumptions" and "persistent increases in disability rolls." Munnell concludes, "Social Security faces a manageable financing shortfall over the next 75 years, which should be addressed soon to share the burden more equitably across cohorts, to restore confidence in the nation's major retirement program, and to give people time to adjust to needed changes."

Johns Hopkins Lecturer Calls For Social Security Changes.

Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies senior lecturer Jason J. Fichtner, in an op-ed in CQ Roll Call (DC) (6/11, 117K), writes that the Social Security crisis "is already well upon us." He warns, "To ensure that Social Security remains viable for the most vulnerable in our society, policymakers must soon address its severe

and urgent financial challenges.” Fichtner calls for “bipartisan policy solutions,” recommending reforms suggested by “an expansive project housed at the Bipartisan Policy Center” that would “improve retirement security and personal savings.”

Ryan Making One Last Push To Overhaul TANF, SNAP Before He Retires From Congress.

Congressional Quarterly (6/11, McPherson, Subscription Publication) reports House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) “has spent his 20-year congressional career primarily focused on two issues, taxes and poverty.” He “led a major rewrite of the tax code last year, but when he retires at the end of this term he won’t have many accomplishments to tout on poverty.” The article says “Ryan is spending his final year in office making one last anti-poverty push.” That is why the House is mulling “another overhaul to TANF [Temporary Assistance for Needy Families], as well as major changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), otherwise known as food stamps.”

Jefferson County Decision To Forfeit Head Start Funding Resulted In The Loss Of Family Advocate Jobs.

The Louisville (KY) Courier-Journal (6/11, McLaren, 419K) reports that

after the Jefferson County Public School board in Kentucky voted in late May to abandon its “beleaguered” Head Start program, half a dozen young women walked out of the meeting “out of work, no longer contracted by the district to support preschool students and their families,” even after Superintendent Marty Pollio said no jobs would be lost. The positions, known as family advocates, are required by the federal Head Start and Early Head Start programs, both of which serve children from low-income households. According to the article, “though the positions will exist if another organization scoops up the Head Start grant forfeited by JCPS, the women’s shock illustrated how many in Jefferson County were caught off-guard by the district’s decision to forfeit \$15 million in federal grant money and a program that serves the community’s most vulnerable kids.”

CBP Commissioner Discusses Illegal Border Crossings During Interview.

The Los Angeles Times (6/11, Hennessy-Fiske, 4.03M) runs an interview with US Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Kevin McAleenan “during his visit to agents in Texas’ Rio Grande Valley, the epicenter of migration in recent years.” McAleenan tells the Times, “We’ve had consistent levels of apprehensions and inadmissible crossing since March. March and April were pretty much level at 50,000, both between apprehensions between ports of entry at that 36,000-37,000 level, and inadmissibles arriving at ports of entry between 12,000 and 13,000. So we remain day to day at those levels, which presents a number of challenges operationally.” McAleenan adds that “it’s too early to say what the increased ability to apply consequences for crossing the border illegally – what effect that will have on the traffic coming towards us.”

Louisiana Child Care Program Improved Controls, Auditor Says.

The AP (6/12) says a report issued Monday by Louisiana Legislative Auditor Daryl Purpera's office "says the education department has enacted most of the recommendations made by auditors to track spending on the Child Care Assistance Program." A 2012 audit of the program when it was managed by the Department of Children and Family Services identified \$46,000 in improper payments, but the education department, "which took control in 2015, trimmed improper payments to about \$24,000."

Food & Import Safety

Opinion: Labeling Requirements Drive Up Costs For Consumers.

Richard Berman, president of the public relations firm Berman and Co., writes for the Washington Times (6/11, 460K) that "the Coalition for Accurate Product Labels reports that in the first half of 2018, 11 states introduced close to three dozen proposals for warning labels or ingredient disclosures that went beyond national standards, and in many cases exceeded the bounds of known evidence." Arguing that labels "have landed us in a regulatory muck of meaningless warnings and unnecessary added costs to businesses, which are inevitably passed on to consumers," Berman denounces San Francisco's 2015 ordinance on labeling of sugar-sweetened beverages, noting that the FDA recognizes that "added sugars can be a part of a healthy dietary pattern."

Tyson To Recall 3,120 Pounds Of Breaded Chicken Over Plastic Contamination.

USA Today (6/11, Price, 11.4M) reports the "U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service said Friday Tyson must recall 3,120 pounds of frozen breaded chicken tenders." The company informed FSIS on Friday that "the breading of the frozen, uncooked chicken tenders may have been contaminated with foreign material in the form of blue and clear soft plastic," the article says. FSIS classified the health risk as "low."

Tennessee E. Coli Outbreak Leaves Six Children Hospitalized, Two In Serious Condition.

The [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (6/11, Gosnell, 252K) reports that East Tennessee Children's Hospital (ETCH) is still treating six children following a recent E. coli outbreak associated with raw milk and contact with farm animals. "Two of the children are in the pediatric intensive care unit in serious condition, ETCH spokeswoman Erica Estep said Monday." In a Monday update, the Knox County Health Department said, "While it would be rare, it's possible that our community is experiencing two unrelated E. coli clusters at the same time," adding, "The common link among the majority of those who are ill continues to be consumption of raw milk from a local cow-share dairy, French Broad Farm in Knox County."

Arizona Family Awarded \$1.95 Million In Foster Farms Salmonella Case.

In a 2,700-word feature, the [Arizona Republic](#) (6/11, White, 1.21M) reports Arizona couple Amanda and James Craten were awarded \$1.95 million in a lawsuit against Foster Farms over the near-death of toddler Noah, who "was hospitalized in 2013 with an abscess in his brain as a result of a salmonella infection" linked to chicken produced by the farm. The article chronicles the ordeal and describes the likely infection vector.

Medicaid &CHIP

Ohio Decides Not To Implement Five-Percent Cut To Medicaid Reimbursement For Hospitals.

The Cleveland Plain Dealer (6/11, Hancock, 1.03M) reports that Ohio "has canceled a planned \$1.1 billion...Medicaid cut to hospitals, saying an uptick in the economy and reshuffling money in the health care program has prevented the reduction." Officials explained that this was due to the fact that "the number of people enrolled and the amount of money it has cost to cover their health care was lower than state projections." The article says the state had been mulling a five-percent cut to Medicaid reimbursement for hospitals that "treat some 3 million program recipients who qualify based on their incomes, health conditions and disabilities, among other factors."

Nursing Homes, Assisted-Living Facilities Suing Montana Over Medicaid Reimbursement Cuts.

The AP (6/11, Volz) reports that on Monday, several nursing homes and assisted-living facilities in Montana “sued the state...to halt cuts to their reimbursements for providing care to Medicaid patients, cuts that have caused other Medicaid providers to curtail services or close altogether.” The article says that in January, the state Department of Public Health and Human Services reduced “the Medicaid provider reimbursement rates...as part of spending reductions across state government aimed at closing a budget shortfall.” The state wants to extend the 2.99-percent cut through the next fiscal year which begins in July, but the facilities “are asking a judge to block the cut, reinstate the 2017 rate and to reimburse them for the approximately \$3 million that they have lost since January because of the reduction.”

Montana Public Radio (6/11, Yamanaka) reports the Montana Health Care Association and “some of its members” filed the lawsuit. Executive director of the Montana Health Care Association Rose Hughes “said these cuts mean families are being denied services when they seek help from assisted living facilities.”

New Hampshire Substance Abuse, Mental Health Treatment Providers Worried About Proposed Cuts To Medicaid Reimbursement.

The Concord (NH) Monitor (6/11, DeWitt, 35K) reports, “Without some action, the state’s newly approved Medicaid expansion program could saddle substance abuse and mental health treatment providers with

lower payouts that could force cuts to staffing and services around January, when the law takes effect, they say.” The article says New Hampshire legislators voted last month to extend Medicaid expansion for another five years. These providers are worried because of “a change that was intended as an improvement.” The new deal stipulates that “recipients will receive care through managed care organizations – an insurance alternative designed to reduce health care costs.” This means the current “daily rate of \$300 to \$500 per patient would drop to \$162.60 a day.”

Michigan Governor Signs Bill To Repeal, Replace Tax That Funds Medicaid.

The AP (6/11) reports Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder (R) on Monday “signed into law a plan to repeal and replace Michigan’s tax on health insurance claims that is used to help fund Medicaid for low-income residents.” The measures “require the state to seek a federal waiver to implement the tax change. The waiver is expected to be approved.”

Fate Of Medicaid Expansion In Maine May Depend On Outcome Of November Election For Governor.

Dylan Scott writes in a Vox (6/11, 1.66M) piece that a majority of Maine

voters approved “Medicaid expansion last November, but it still hasn’t happened yet. And it may just be their vote to choose the next governor that finally finishes the job.” Scott says Gov. Paul LePage (R), who will soon leave office, has used every means “at his disposal to stop Maine from expanding Medicaid to 70,000 of Maine’s poorest residents,” despite voters’ expressed wish to expand the program. Scott adds that advocates of Medicaid expansion “are pursuing legal action against LePage to force him into implementing it quickly,” however, “if courts don’t rule in their favor or if the fight drags out, the fate of Medicaid expansion is very much at stake in the fall election.”

Health & Medical News

Young Women Get Less Exercise Than Young Men, Study Suggests.

The [NPR](#) (6/11, Watson, 3.55M) “Shots” blog provides coverage of a study by researchers at Duke University suggesting that young women, particularly black women, get less exercise than young men, and that women’s “exercise rates drop significantly after high school.” Offering possible explanations why young women’s exercise rates are lower than young men, one researcher not involved with the study said, “I think

our society culturally sends different messages to young girls in terms of their bodies and how they spend their time... A lot of teen girl socialization is less focused on being physically active together, whether it's teen sports, or pick up games, or even going to the gym." In terms of why black women are affected disproportionately, one study author said, "We know that there is an unequal distribution of things like athletic fields [and] high schools that serve more minority populations are less resourced...I think that's just compounded when people leave the structured school environment." The findings were published in JAMA Pediatrics.

The Washington Times (6/11, Kelly, 460K) reports the study found that "45% of black females age 18 to 24 years reported no physical activity," and that "black females age 25 to 29 reported a little over a half hour of activity per day." Moreover, "White adolescent males were most likely to report any physical activity and younger age, being white, and having a higher income was associated with more time dedicated to exercise." The study authors wrote, "These data highlight opportunities for targeted physical activity programming and policy efforts to reduce the risk for chronic diseases and improve overall health throughout the lifespan."

Additional coverage is provided by The Guardian (UK) (6/11, Davis, 4.03M).

Research Explores Why People Get "Hangry."

USA Today (6/11, Molina, 11.4M) reports that research published in Emotion suggests “environmental cues and a person’s emotional awareness can decide whether someone becomes ‘hangry.’”

Newsweek (6/11, Gander, 2.18M) reports that researchers came to this conclusion after conducting “two online experiments on 400 participants.”

TIME (6/11, Sifferlin, 19.27M) reports that study co-author Kristen Lindquist said, “Despite the colloquial term ‘hanger,’ we found that this effect was not specific to anger.” Lindquist added, “People in our studies were more likely to feel intense negativity in general when they were hungry and something bad happened – suggesting that feeling hungry can turn up the dial on lots of negative emotions such as anger, stress or disgust.” Also covering the story is the NPR (6/11, Chen, 3.55M) “Shots” blog.

Erectile Dysfunction May Be Linked To Increased Risk Of Heart Disease, Study Suggests.

TIME (6/11, Park, 19.27M) reports that research published in Circulation suggests erectile dysfunction may be linked to a higher risk of heart disease. Investigators found that “among a group of 1,900 men aged 60 to 78, those with erectile dysfunction were twice as likely as men without the condition to have a heart attack, stroke, or die of a heart

problem.”

The New York Post (6/11, Gollayan, 4.46M) reports that Michael Blaha, a co-author of the study, said, “The onset of ED should prompt men to seek comprehensive cardiovascular risk evaluation from a preventive cardiologist.”

HealthDay (6/11, Mozes, 10K) reports, “The link between impotence and heart disease appears to be ‘a two-way street,’ Blaha said, given that men who have had a heart attack appear to face a higher risk for ED.”

Healthy Lifestyle Associated With Improved Memory In Old Age, Study Indicates.

Xinhua News Agency (CHN) (6/12, 11K) reports on a Finnish study showing that “a healthy lifestyle, including physical exercises, brain stimulants and healthy diet,” has the potential to “improve brain health and prevent late-age memory disorders.” The investigation, published Monday, examined 1,262 Finns over the age of 60 with an increased risk for memory disorders. “The control group had nearly 30 percent of the increased risk of deteriorating memory functions, while those who received intensive guidance had improved mental ability and physical performance,” Xinhua reports. The research was part of the Finnish Geriatric Intervention Study to Prevent Cognitive Impairment and Disability.

Millennial Men And Women Invest Differently, PNC Survey Reveals.

In an exclusive, [USA Today](#) (6/12, Shell, 11.4M) reports on the insights highlighted in PNC Investments' 2018 Millennials & Investing Survey. "Nearly seven out of 10 (67%) female Millennials, for example, said their parents encouraged them to 'save' money, versus just 58% of males," and similarly, "only 29% of females surveyed said their parents 'showed (them) ways to grow wealth.'" By contrast, "37% of males said their financial education was focused on wealth-building, the survey found." USA Today reports the men surveyed "demonstrated a more aggressive approach to risk taking than their female peers," with 14 percent saying they "embrace risk," double the percentage of women who said they welcomed risk.

Morningstar Analyst Supports State-Sponsored Auto-Enrollment For Retirement Savings.

[MarketWatch](#) (6/11, Vlastelica, 1.49M) reports Aron Szapiro, director of policy research at Morningstar, says that government incentive programs for retirement investing "could dramatically increase the number of Americans who participate in retirement programs, at minimal cost to taxpayers," and he "stressed that such incentives

should be considered, noting the dire state of savings.” He adds that auto-enrollment in such plans “is the most powerful tool we’ve ever seen,” adding that “that this kind of regulation was far more effective in getting individuals to contribute than tax incentives.”

Tallahassee Targeting Multigenerational Families To Increase Retiree Draw.

The New York Times (6/8, Olson, Subscription Publication, 19.33M) reported Tallahassee, Florida is not seeing the same growth as the rest of the state, and a “key part” of its efforts to “attract new residents” targets retirees with “some unusual tactics – including subsidizing a few people to move there.” A new campaign called “Choose Tallahassee” is recruiting “baby boomers who are hitting retirement age and looking to move someplace warmer and more affordable but who may not have thought of Tallahassee” compared to other destinations. Its campaigns are separately targeting boomers who “live elsewhere” and their children who live in Tallahassee, each promoting the benefits of having the other closer: for the boomers, the advantages of tech support and labor provided by nearby adult children; and for residents, the benefits of parents in proximity, such as free childcare.

Ford Works On Self-Driving Delivery Service With Postmates.

Fortune (6/11, Corbett, 3.91M) reports that Ford is working on developing a self-driving delivery service program with Postmates. Currently, the pilot program offers delivery options from more than 70 businesses in Miami and Miami Beach, "with the option of having the order delivered in a self-driving research vehicle." The article explains that the vehicles used in the pilot are not autonomous, but instead "are manually driven cars with sensors that are being used to research the first and last mile of the delivery service."

Experts Worried About Unproven Tesla Self-Driving Features.

The Washington Post (6/11, Harwell, 15.68M) reports Tesla CEO Elon Musk tweeted that in August the company's cars will activate "full self-driving features," although a company spokesman said that does not mean full autonomy. Meanwhile, "safety experts worried the grand promises of full self-driving capabilities could lull drivers into a false sense of security for technologies that are still largely unproven on the road."

Uber-Like Flight Hailing Service Skyryde Starts Service In Los Angeles.

The Washington Post (6/11, Kunkle, 15.68M) reports on the launch of Skyryde, an "Uber-like flight-hailing service," in Los Angeles. Skyryde is using small planes that have "four to six seats and instrumentation that allows pilots to fly in everything but the most extreme weather."

Skyryde launched its services on April 20 and has been used by 16 passengers since its inception. According to Skyryde Founder Jerome Brenndon Adkins, "a typical Skyryde flight might take a passenger from the University of California at Los Angeles to Long Beach" at a fare of around \$300. Adkins "hopes that the same concepts pioneered by Uber...will lower Skyryde's price from what might seem exorbitant now to something closer to \$100." An FAA spokesman said that the agency is aware of the service and "the venture appears to have passed regulatory muster in several respects."

Researchers Create Virtual Reality Platform To Help Children Cope With Doctor's Appointment Anxiety.

U.S. News & World Report (6/11, 1.97M) contributor Jeremy Patterson from the Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital discusses how virtual reality can help children deal with nervousness or anxiety during a doctor's appointment. Patterson explains that researchers at the Institute have created a "first-of-its-kind VR platform called Voxel Bay," which "provides patients with an immersive environment of penguins, pirates and dragons during infusions and other procedures." Additionally, the system's headsets are "built for purpose and are a fun part of the experience." VR games are installed "onto smartphones, so they're wireless, and nurses or families can follow the progress of the games by watching a tablet and adjust if the patient needs more distraction."

Feeding Children Honey After Swallowing A Small Battery Can Prevent Serious Injury, Study Suggests.

The Philadelphia Inquirer (6/11, Giordano, 1.07M) reports "a team of pediatric ear, nose, and throat specialists from the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and Nationwide Children's Hospital has discovered that giving a child honey to eat after he or she has swallowed a small battery can prevent serious injury and possibly even death." Study authors explained, "Our recommendation would be for parents and caregivers to give honey at regular intervals before a child is able to reach a hospital, while clinicians in a hospital can use sucralfate before removing the battery." The findings, which "will be incorporated into the National Capital Poison Center's guidelines for management of button battery ingestions," were published in *The Laryngoscope*.

Science Blog (6/11) also reports.

Physician Advises Parents To Keep Kids Safe While Swimming.

Dr. Perri Klass writes for the New York Times (6/11, Subscription Publication, 19.33M) that "even if kids have had swim lessons, parents

must still supervise them in the water.” Dr. Klass quotes Dr. Benjamin Hoffman, who is the chairman of the American Academy of Pediatrics Council on Injury, Violence, and Poison Prevention, as saying, “Infant swim is not a drowning prevention exercise,” because children are developing water competence in swimming lessons. Dr. Klass notes that until 2010 the AAP advised against swimming lessons for children under the age of four due to concerns that “parents whose young children take swimming lessons will be lulled into a false sense of security,” but after a 2009 study by researchers at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the AAP recognized “that swimming lessons for young children were not a risk and might be protective – as long as parents continued to be protective as well.”

Using Prophylactic NSAIDs Before And After Cataract Surgery May Reduce Development Of Cystoid Macular Edema In Diabetic Patients, Study Suggests.

MD Magazine (6/11, DiSanto) reports researchers found “that using prophylactic non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) pre- and post-cataract surgery may help reduce the severity and frequency of the development of cystoid macular edema (CME) in the eyes of diabetic patients.” The findings were “published in the International Journal of Ophthalmology.”

Young Surgeons Face High Debt, Financial Instability, Study Suggests.

Reuters (6/11, Crist) says a new study published in the American College of Surgeons found that “young surgeons often face debt burdens that make it difficult for them to start their careers and pay off their loans.” According to the study, “more than one in three, or 38 percent, reported more than \$200,000 in educational debt. When non-student loan debt, mortgage liability, vehicle debt, and credit card debt were factored in, the average trainee owed more than \$220,000.” Overall, the researchers found that 82 percent of respondents had moderate- or high-risk debt-to-asset ratios.

Opinion: Retail Health Clinics Set The Stage For Today's Mega-Mergers.

Hal Rosenbluth and Peter Miller, co-founders of Take Care Health Systems, write in STAT (6/11, 27K) about retail health clinics and say that “the media spotlight is on some of health care’s giants as they jockey for position around the themes that retail clinics set in motion.” The duo argue that any major mega-merger must focus on aligning incentives, educating consumers on healthcare, and accommodate the social determinants of health.

Tick Paralysis Strikes Five-Year-Old In Mississippi.

The Washington Post (6/11, Wootson, 15.68M) reports on a five-year-old girl in Mississippi who woke up one morning unable to walk. Her mother found a tick on her head and took her to a hospital where she was diagnosed with tick paralysis, a condition that is caused by female ticks on the verge of laying eggs. After the tick eats a blood meal and is engorged, it secretes a neurotoxin into the host. According to the Post, "paralysis begins in the legs, then spreads to the upper extremities. It can manifest as fatigue, numbness and an increasing inability to move," and in the later stages, if no action is taken, "the toxin ultimately makes it impossible for a person to breathe, resulting in respiratory failure." The article says the child quickly recovered after the tick was removed.

Red Cross Blood Drive Campaign Sees Major Brands Dropping A, B, and O From Their Names.

NBC News (6/11, Fox, 5.76M) reports on its website that major brands are dropping the letters A, B, and O in their logos to support the Red Cross's new blood drive campaign starting Monday. "Without A, B and O, we can't save anybody," the Red Cross says, adding, "Each year, fewer and fewer people are donating blood." According to the article, "only about 38 percent of the population is even eligible to give blood, and only about 10 percent of those people – that's 3 percent of the population – give blood yearly."

KKR To Buy Envision Healthcare For \$5.57 Billion.

In continuing coverage, Bloomberg News (6/11, Mittelman, 4.46M) reports that KKR &Co. will buy Envision Healthcare Corp. for \$46 a share "after an almost yearlong sale process for the medical company." The article says, "The all-cash deal values Envision at \$5.57 billion. Including debt, the acquisition is valued at \$9.9 billion."

Also reporting are the Associated Press (6/11) and Bloomberg View (6/11, Sutherland, 4.46M).

Surgeons Use 3D-Printed Organs To Determine Best Way To Operate.

The Washington Post (6/8, Blakemore, 15.68M) reports that surgeons are using 3D-printed organs to figure out the best way to operate on patients. Using CT scans that are manipulated via special software, a team of engineers creates a model that replicates the organ and use computer models predict how blood flow would respond to each patient's unique anatomy. The process helps physicians decide how best to approach the surgery, according to the Post.

Legacy Of Racism Hurting Health Of African Americans.

In a 7,543-word feature in [The Atlantic](#) (6/11, 3.08M), Olga Khazan writes about “how African Americans became stuck in profoundly unhealthy neighborhoods, and...how the legacy of racism can literally take years off their lives.” In the US, “black people suffer disproportionately from some of the most devastating health problems,” but, excepting a few specific ailments, scientists believe the underlying causes aren’t genetic but “social and environmental forces that affect African Americans more than most other groups.” Khazan adds, “America’s racist and segregationist history continues to harm black people in the most intimate of ways – seeping into their lungs, their blood, even their DNA.”

South Carolina Primary Vote To Gauge “Temperature” Of Electorate.

The [Greenville \(SC\) News](#) (6/11, Wilkinson, 112K) reports that a nonbinding ballot initiative on the legalization of medical marijuana will be included on the Democratic primary ballot in South Carolina on Tuesday. Bill Nettles, a former US attorney for South Carolina, said the ballot “allows the party to take the temperature of the electorate,” on the issue.

Opinion: Physician-Assisted Suicide “Can Never Be Medical Care.”

Matt Vallière, executive director of the Patients’ Rights Action Fund, writes in The Hill (6/11, 2.71M) about physician-assisted suicide, and says that “suicide can never be medical care.” Vallière argues, “As the medical community continues to point out its dangers, Congress should summarily reject assisted suicide public policy by passing H.Con. Res.80 – a truly bipartisan bill ‘expressing the sense of the Congress that assisted suicide puts everyone, including those most vulnerable, at risk of deadly harm and undermines the integrity of the health care system.’”

American Medical Association Votes To Keep Reviewing Its Guidance On Physician-Assisted Suicide.

The Washington Post (6/11, Bever, 15.68M) reports that delegates at the American Medical Association’s annual meeting in Chicago voted Monday to continue reviewing its guidance on physician-assisted suicide. The AMA’s House of Delegates “voted by a margin of 56 to 44 percent to have the AMA’s Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs keep studying the current guidance,” according to the article.

Modern Healthcare (6/11, Johnson, Subscription Publication, 239K) also covers the story.

Cherokee Hospital Testing 186 Patients For HIV, Hepatitis After Nurse Reused Syringes.

The Tulsa (OK) World (6/11, Overall, 358K) reports that W.W. Hastings Hospital in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, a Cherokee Nation facility, is testing 186 patients for HIV and hepatitis after a nurse allegedly reused syringes to administer medications. According to the article, "the nurse violated protocols by using the same vial of medication and syringe to inject more than one intravenous bag." As of Monday, 64 patients had been screened, and none had tested positive. Hospital CEO Brian Hail said, "Patients were never directly in contact with any needle. Medication was administered into an IV bag or tubing. The likelihood of blood-borne pathogens traveling up the lines into an IV bag or IV tubing to cause cross contamination from using the same syringe is extremely remote."

Louisiana Regulators Prepare For Expanded Medical Marijuana Program.

The Baton Rouge (LA) Advocate (6/11, Thompson, 141K) reports that "regulators crafting Louisiana's medical marijuana policies affecting physicians expressed concern Monday that key rules still need to be revised, while the growing number of state-approved treatable conditions will likely cause the state's nascent program to grow significantly." According to the article, "questions linger about how the drug will be administered, such as determining the appropriate dosage for a 30-day supply, and whether to lift an existing cap on the number of patients that doctors can recommend to be treated using medical marijuana."

Physician Offers Advice About Genetic Screening For Pregnant Women.

U.S. News & World Report (6/8, 1.97M) contributor Elaine K. Howley offered guidance on genetic screening for pregnant women. Discussing the elevated risks associated with diagnostic tests such as amniocentesis and CVS, Howley quoted Dr. Deanna Mascho-Cawley, an OB-GYN at Geisinger in Danville, Pennsylvania, as saying, "According to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, any patient can be offered or should be offered that diagnostic testing as well. We just tailor the counseling based off the patient's risk factors and their desires because of those additional risks that are associated with those procedures."

Guided Nanospears Can Administer Genetic Therapies Targeting Cancer, Researchers Say.

The Daily Beast (6/12, Schultz, 1.69M) reports a recent study in the journal American Chemical Society Nano “describes a method of creating nanospears 5,000 times thinner than human hair that successfully targeted, pierced, and entered a cancer cell within a lab dish.” The authors explained in an email, “The capability to guide the nanospears magnetically eliminates the need for potentially harmful chemical propellants that have been used in prior examples of nanorobotic delivery,” adding, “A key feature of the nanospears is that we can guide them individually or in groups” to deliver some genetic therapies.

US Adults With Hypertension Incur Nearly \$2,000 More In Annual Healthcare Costs, Study Indicates.

Reuters (6/11, Wiener) reports that research indicates “each year, U.S. adults with high blood pressure incur almost \$2,000 more in annual healthcare costs.” The data indicated that “nationally, healthcare for adults with high blood pressure...costs an extra \$131 billion per year.” The findings were published in the Journal of the American Heart Association. Reuters points out that “last year, the American Heart Association, the American College of Cardiology and several other health organizations lowered the threshold for high blood pressure in adults to 130/80 millimeters of mercury.”

Loneliness May Cause Premature Death By Damaging Heart, Research Suggests.

Newsweek (6/11, Spear, 2.18M) reports that research suggests "loneliness may actually cause premature death by damaging the heart." The study "suggested that feeling loneliness may double a person's risk of dying of cardiovascular disease." The findings were presented at the European Society of Cardiology's annual nursing conference.

CRISPR-Cas9 May Increase Cancer Risk In Cells, Research Suggests.

Reuters (6/11, Kelland) reports that two studies suggests CRISPR-Cas9, "a gene-editing technology that is being explored by scientists worldwide as a way of removing and replacing gene defects might inadvertently increase cancer risk in cells."

STAT (6/11, Begley, 27K) reports that "In the studies...scientists found that cells whose genomes are successfully edited by CRISPR-Cas9 have the potential to seed tumors inside a patient," which "could make some

CRISPR'd cells ticking time bombs, according to" the investigators. To view the studies, click [here](#) and [here](#).

Congressional Action On Marijuana Could Potentially Lead To Studies On Benefits Of Medical Marijuana For Cancer Patients.

[Fox News](#) (6/11, Carlton, 16.38M) reports, "President Trump recently told reporters he will likely support a congressional effort to end the federal ban on marijuana, which could finally help cut through the red tape blocking scientists from conducting large-scale trials on the benefits of medical marijuana in cancer patients." Fox News adds, "According to new [research](#) published in the Journal of Clinical Oncology, less than 30 percent of oncologists surveyed felt knowledgeable enough about medical marijuana to make recommendations." Dr. Andrew Epstein, an ASCO patient care expert, told Fox News, "The amount of information we have is still relatively nascent and evolving and therefore its upon us as a community to re-up our skills in knowing about this aspect of supportive oncology."

Genetic Test For Prostate Cancer Can Identify Individuals Who Have A Higher Risk Of Developing The Disease, Researchers Say.

[Forbes](#) (6/11, Forster, 10.34M) contributor Victoria Forster writes that

research published in Nature Genetics indicates “a new DNA ‘spit test’ for prostate cancer can identify men who have an increased risk of developing the disease.” The research was partially funded by the National Cancer Institute. Forster points out that research recently presented at the American Society of Clinical Oncology meeting “showed that only a minority of men with prostate cancer respond to immunotherapy, likely those men whose cancers have defects in genes involved in repairing DNA.”

HealthDay (6/11, Preidt, 10K) reports, “According to the new study, the scientists identified 63 new genetic variants associated with increased risk of prostate cancer, and combined them with more than 100 previously identified variants to create the new test.” The new “test identifies the 1 percent of men who are at highest risk for prostate cancer.”

Also covering the story are BBC News Online (UK) (6/11, 1.57M) and The Guardian (UK) (6/11, Sample, 4.03M).

Rhode Island Nursing Homes Decry State Budget Cut That Would Lead To Layoffs, Closures.

The AP (6/11, McGuinness) reports nursing homes in Rhode Island denounced legislators’ most recent budget proposal because it would cut their funding and “likely lead to facility closures and layoffs.” Rhode Island Health Care Association president Virginia Burke, “Closures. The

impact will be closures. ... Facilities would not be able to keep operating." She also indicated that "the 8.5 percent cut would mean a loss of close to \$30 million for the facilities," which "are already financially strapped." Burke also "said nursing homes have not seen any money from the judgment as the state continues its appeal process," and that the cut "would take effect in three weeks."

THCA Sounds Alarm Over Texas' LTC Staffing Crisis.

The [Midland \(TX\) Reporter-Telegram](#) (6/12, McEwen, 42K) reports Texas providers "are ringing alarm bells" about the staffing crisis impacting nursing homes throughout the state. According to the Texas Health Care Association, "the 97 percent turnover rate for certified nurse aides and the 90 percent turnover rate for registered nurses and licensed vocational nurses are affecting nursing homes statewide." THCA president and CEO Kevin Warren explained, "It's a huge concern when you look at the fact we're seeing direct care staff...have a turnover rate of 90 to 97 percent. ... It's a significant problem that we need to work on and come together to address." He also pointed out that "staffing has always been a challenge, but he has not seen such high turnover rates in the more than 20 years he's worked in the industry." The article lists recommendations from Warren on improving staffing levels.

Despite Prevention Efforts, South Dakota's STD Rates Rising.

The Sioux Falls (SD) Argus Leader (6/11, Pfankuch, 175K) reports prevention efforts to combat sexually transmitted diseases in South Dakota "have not reversed a trend of increasing STD rates in rural and urban regions of the state" as cases reach "near-historic infection rates." Health officials worry "that if infection rates continue to rise...a health crisis could result among sexually active South Dakotans who engage in high-risk behaviors." Their concerns have been compounded by the emergence of "a new antibiotic-resistant form of gonorrhea and cases of congenital syphilis."

Pennsylvania, Nation Losing Fight Against Lyme Disease.

The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review (6/11, Erdley, 334K) reports on an article in Scientific American indicating that "the battle against Lyme diseases isn't progressing." The piece says Lyme has been particularly bad in Pennsylvania, which "led the country" for the past six years "with the most new cases of Lyme – more than 12,000 residents contracted the disease in 2016." The article notes that the pressure to develop a vaccine is growing "ever more pressing as the tick" responsible for its spread "expands its reach across the country."

Op-Ed: Rising Number Of Lyme Disease Infections Punctuates Need For Prevention Efforts.

Mary Beth Pfeiffer, author of "Lyme: The First Epidemic of Climate Change," writes for Scientific American (6/11, 3.12M) that "little has been done to curb the spread of ticks or to control the harm inflicted by the Lyme bacterium," which she argues is "the product of a false image of Lyme disease, embraced by health officials and repeated in reviews of the medical literature, as an illness that is easy to diagnose and readily treatable." She argues that "we must recognize that the power of ticks has been underestimated and our response inadequate."

Epidemiologists Predict California Will See Another Cycle Of Pertussis Cases.

The Orange County (CA) Register (6/11, Walker, 635K) reports on the "cyclical nature" of pertussis, noting that California four years ago "was in the grips of an outbreak" and that "outbreaks tend to occur every three to five years." Epidemiologists have issued warnings that the Southern California region should anticipate "another surge right about now." While "there are no signs as yet of an epidemic, statewide or locally," the piece urges parents to take precautions.

Cost Of Kansas City's Measles Outbreaks Exceeded \$170,000.

The Kansas City (MO) Star (6/11, Marso, 636K) reports an analysis led by health officials shows "that more than \$170,000 in taxpayer resources was spent" in efforts to combat two measles outbreaks in Kansas City that resulted in "35 total cases – 22 in Kansas and 13 in Missouri." Some of the funding came from federal sources, while "some of it came out of redirected state and local resources and none of it includes other costs that are difficult or even impossible to quantify." The article goes on to examine the cost breakdown of treatment and prevention efforts during the outbreaks.

Stryker Reportedly Eyeing Boston Scientific For Takeover.

The Wall Street Journal (6/11, Mattioli, Dummett, Cimilluca, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) reports Stryker Corp. recently initiated an attempt to take over competitor Boston Scientific Corp., which would form a medical device behemoth worth more than \$110 billion, according to sources. The Journal says it is unknown whether Boston Scientific is amenable toward the offer, which comes amid a jolt of activity in the healthcare sector as companies address industry and regulatory shifts.

Reuters (6/11, Banerjee, Berkrot) reports the combination "would give Stryker a strong position in stroke preventing interventional cardiology." If a deal were to materialize, "Stryker would get Boston Scientific's line of stents, defibrillators and its Watchman atrial device to prevent migration of blood clots."

The Minneapolis Star Tribune (6/11, Carlson, 1.16M) reports Boston Scientific shares “shot up nearly 10 percent in midday trading Monday” on the news. The companies have not commented on the alleged deal.

Juvenescence Takes Stake In Company Generating Cell-Based Therapies For Age-Related Diseases.

MedCity News (6/11, DeArment) reports UK-based Juvenescence Limited, which develops “therapies to slow or reverse the effects of aging,” announced Monday it has raised \$50 million in a Series A funding round. The company also “made a \$5 million equity investment in AgeX Therapeutics, a subsidiary of publicly traded company BioTime focused on developing cell-based therapies for age-related degenerative diseases.” AgeX is noted as having previously raised \$10.8 million last year, including “a \$386,000 grant from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, part of the National Institutes of Health.”

Experts Push For “Medicalized Approach” To Suicide Prevention.

Modern Healthcare (6/11, Johnson, Subscription Publication, 239K) reports that the recent suicide deaths of designer Kate Spade and TV

host Anthony Bourdain “highlight what has become a growing public health issue, as rates of suicide throughout the country have increased sharply over the past two decades.” Some experts are calling for a “more medicalized approach toward treating anxiety and depression,” much like “early screening for conditions such as diabetes and breast cancer has led to better outcomes and survival rates.” The article explains that “such an approach would require changes in the way much of the medical community views mental health disorders” and would require eliminating “lingering stigmas” among both providers and patients, such as “knowing the signs of a potential disorder or when to refer patients to a behavioral healthcare specialist for help.”

Opinion: Ending The Stigma Is The Key To Suicide Prevention.

Petula Dvorak writes in the Washington Post (6/11, 15.68M) that even though 123 people die of suicide every day, “we still don’t want to talk about it.” Dvorak argues, “The silence, the stigma and the fear keep us from having real conversations – and taking action – when it comes to such a determined killer” that is the tenth leading cause of death in the US and the second highest among teens. The piece concludes that “the key” to suicide prevention is: “Helping others. Breaking the silence. Ending the stigma.”

Oral Migraine Drug Succeeds In Study, Manufacturer Says.

Reuters (6/11, Banerjee) reports Allergan Plc announced Monday that its oral migraine drug, atogepant, met its “main goal across all doses in a study, with a statistically significant reduction in monthly headache days in patients with episodic migraine.” The results come after the FDA approved Amgen’s calcitonin gene-related peptide (CGRP) treatment last month.

Layoffs A Symptom Of A Deeper Problem With IBM’s Watson Health, Former Employees Say.

STAT Plus (6/11, Ross, Swetlitz, Subscription Publication, 27K) reports that IBM’s Watson Health project is “grappling with a deeper problem – that the company has struggled to turn its new trove of patient data into workable products, and that instead of attracting a wave of new hospital clients, Watson Health is starting to shed business,” according to former IBM employees who were recently laid off by the company. The article discusses how IBM has had reported problems with integrating its three acquisitions which brought in “vast stores of patient health data.”

Children Exposed To Cigarette Smoke Have Higher Risk Of Hearing Loss, Research Indicates.

Newsweek (6/11, Dovey, 2.18M) reports researchers from Japan have found that "exposure to smoking, both in utero and in the first few months of a child's life, is associated with higher prevalence of hearing impairment," according to a study published in Paediatric and Perinatal Epidemiology. Among the findings, "children exposed to only their mothers' past smoking had a 26 percent increased risk of hearing impairment," and those exposed to only "secondhand smoke at four months had a 30 percent increased risk." In addition, "those whose mothers smoked during their pregnancy had a 68 percent increased risk of hearing impairment."

Studies Link Abdominal Fat To Increased Rates Of Coronary Heart Disease, Increased Risk For Cancer, And Risk Of Developing Dementia Decades Later.

In the New York Times (6/11, Subscription Publication, 19.33M) "Personal Health" column, Jane E. Brody writes that if a person's "waist measures 35 or more inches for women or 40 or more inches for men, chances are you're harboring a potentially dangerous amount of abdominal fat." Brody goes on to detail studies linking visceral fat with increased rates of coronary heart disease, an increased risk for cancer, and even the "risk of developing dementia decades later."

Experts Release Blueprint For Improving End-Of-Life Care.

NJ Spotlight (6/12, Stainton) reports on recommendations released Monday by the nonprofit New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute as "part of a strategic plan for end-of-life care." Targeted investments for improving end of life care include "developing a statewide database to keep residents' requests and wishes readily accessible" and offering "higher reimbursements for treatment consultations and palliative care." The 15-page report "outlines ways in which state officials can work with hospitals, medical schools, local communities, and other groups to provide more appropriate...medical treatments and support services to patients nearing the end."

Global Health

Rollout Of HIV Prevention Drug Tied To Reduction In Condom Use Among Men Who Have Sex With Men In Australia, Study Suggests.

The New York Times (6/11, Baumgaertner, Subscription Publication, 19.33M) reports researchers found that "the rollout of a drug that

prevents HIV infection was followed by a reduction in condom use among gay and bisexual men in Australia.” The findings were published in Lancet HIV.

HIV/AIDS Epidemic Getting Worse In Russia.

In an over 2,800 word article, Science Magazine (6/11, Cohen, 441K) reports that the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Russia is getting worse. The article highlights some of the contributing factors to the problem, including some of the barriers that many patients with HIV face in receiving treatment in Russia.

Rift Valley Fever Kills Five In Kenya, Official Says.

Reuters (6/11, Mureithi) says Kenya has reported the deaths of five people in the past week due to the reemergence of Rift Valley Fever disease, marking “the first reports of the disease since an outbreak killed more than 200 people a decade ago.” Abdihakim Billow, a health official of the area “where the deaths were reported, said two people died in hospital while the other three died at home,” adding that “another two people thought to be ill from the disease had been hospitalized.”

British Authorities Seize Mother's Cannabis-Based Medication For Son With Epilepsy, Prompting Stand-Off.

Reuters (6/11, Shirbon) reports that the mother of a boy with epilepsy who journeyed to Canada "to buy cannabis-based medication she says is keeping her son alive" had her supplies confiscated by British customs officials upon her return on Monday. The mother says that without the cannabis oil, her 12-year-old son has up to 100 seizures a day, each of which is potentially fatal. According to Reuters, "the case has ignited a debate about the medicinal use of cannabis, a drug which is illegal in Britain and which the British authorities do not recognize as having any medicinal benefits."

Opinion: Chinese Communist Leaders Must Be Held Accountable For Human Rights Violations.

Chen Guangcheng, author of "The Barefoot Lawyer: A Blind Man's Fight for Justice and Freedom in China," writes in the Washington Post (6/11, 15.68M) that the Chinese Communist Party "is considering abandoning one of its longest-running and most abusive practices: its reproduction planning policy, commonly known as the one-child policy," but says that returning reproductive rights to the people "does not exempt the Communist Party from responsibility for decades of trauma and murder

committed under the euphemistic rubric of population planning.”
Guangcheng “urges the American government to use the tools at its disposal – such as the Global Magnitsky Act – to hold Communist Party leaders accountable and to take a stand for human rights for all.”

National Register In Australia Could Curb Financial Abuse Of Elders.

The Sydney (AUS) Morning Herald (6/8, Collett, 18K) reports older Australians who are “socially isolated and reliant on others for their care” are “particularly vulnerable to financial abuse.” Last week, “the Australian Banking Association, the Council of the Ageing (COTA Australia) and National Seniors called on the nation’s attorneys-general to agree to standardise the reporting systems for suspected cases of financial abuse of elders,” the article says, adding that such a system “could quickly verify the authority of a power of attorney when they present themselves as acting on behalf of a customer.”

Trump, Kim Pledge “Complete Denuclearization” After Historic Summit.

At Tuesday’s historic summit in Singapore, President Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un signed a joint statement committing to the “complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.” Details of the agreement were still emerging early Tuesday morning, but initial media reports are critical of its lack of specifics. Reuters (6/12, Kim), for example, says the statement “gave few details,” the Wall Street Journal (6/12, Bender, Gordon, Cheng, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) refers to a lack of specific commitments, and Bloomberg News (6/12, Wayne, Sink, 4.46M) says the two leaders “laid out goals...without specifying what immediate steps either side would take.” CNN (6/11, Liptak, 82.6M) reports “there was no mentioning the previous US aim of ‘complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization.’ And Kim’s commitments did not appear to go beyond what he already pledged to do in April when he met South Korean President Moon Jae-in.”

According to the AP (6/12, Miller, Lucey, Lederman, Klug), the President pledged unspecified “security guarantees” to the North. The two leaders “coupled the summit agreement with lofty promises” by Trump to handle “a very dangerous problem” and Kim’s prediction for “major change.” The AP says the document “largely amounted to an agreement to continue discussions,” and “did not include an agreement to take steps toward ending the technical state of warfare between the US and North Korea.”

The New York Times (6/12, Landler, Subscription Publication, 19.33M)

reports Trump concluded the meeting saying that denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula would begin “very quickly.” In the statement, which Trump called “comprehensive,” the President “committed to provide security guarantees” to North Korea, and Kim “reaffirmed his firm and unwavering commitment to complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.” According to the Times, the statement “was short on details,” but Trump told reporters, “We’re starting that process very quickly – very, very quickly – absolutely,” referring to denuclearization. The statement said the two nations would hold “follow-on negotiations” led by Secretary of State Pompeo and a high-level North Korean official “at the earliest possible date, to implement the outcomes” of the summit meeting.

The AP (6/12) reports that during a “free-wheeling press conference before returning to the US,” Trump told reporters he thinks “we’ll probably need another summit” — or at least a second meeting — with Kim. He also insisted that Kim “understands what the US has been pushing for in the talks.” Said Trump , “I think he’s going to do these things.”

During Tuesday’s meeting, the Washington Post (6/12, Nakamura, Rucker, Fifield, Gearan, 15.68M) reports, Trump said he had “developed a very special bond” with Kim, but the document “is an outline, with no specifics or deadlines and leaves the details on key issues such as how the United States would verify that North Korea had given up its nuclear program for future talks.” Still, Trump “cast his meetings with Kim in the most positive light.” The President told reporters, “We are very proud of what took place today. I think our whole relationship with North Korea and the Korean Peninsula is going to be a very much different situation than it has in the past. We both want to do something, we both are going to do something. We have developed a very special bond.”

USA Today (6/12, Jackson, 11.4M) likewise says Trump “claimed success,” saying, “We had a really fantastic meeting” that went “better than anybody could have expected, top of the line, really good.” To the Los Angeles Times (6/11, Bierman, 4.03M), the two leaders “appeared to open a new chapter...in America’s long-hostile relations with North Korea.” At the signing ceremony, Kim said, “The world will see a major change,” adding that he and Trump “decided to leave the past behind.”

Politico (6/11, Johnson, Toosi, 3.51M) says that while the “text of the agreement contained few concrete steps,” Trump called the document “pretty comprehensive” and Kim “a worthy negotiator.” Kim, the Washington Times (6/12, Miller, 460K) reports, said the meeting “was the start of a working relationship between the two countries.”

Fox News (6/12, DeMarche, 16.38M) reports that during a press conference after the talks, Trump “did not refer to the document as a treaty or agreement,” and “said Kim agreed to destroy a ‘major’ missile testing site, but did not offer specific details.”

The Washington Examiner (6/12, Morrongiello, 340K) reports Kim “departed the summit site at around 2 p.m. Tuesday, just as hundreds of journalists were shuttled over for a late afternoon press conference with Trump.” Reuters (6/12) says Kim “is due to leave Singapore at 9 p.m. local time, two sources familiar with the plans said.”

Trump: US-South Korean Military Exercises On Hold.

NBC News (6/11, Allen, 5.76M) reports that after Tuesday's talks, President Trump "confirmed military exercises involving American and South Korea forces would be put on hold for now." The AP (6/12, Miller, Lucey, Lederman, Klug) says Trump "announced that he will be freezing US military 'war games' with...South Korea while negotiations between the two countries continue."

Trump Shows Kim His Presidential Limousine.

Breitbart (6/11, Spiering, 1.28M) reports that after Tuesday's talks, Trump "showed Kim the interior of his presidential limousine 'The Beast' as they walked together outside the hotel."

Number Of US Journalists Permitted To Cover Talks Limited.

According to Politico (6/11, Schwartz, 3.51M), "the number of American journalists allowed to witness" the ceremony "was limited to seven – a smaller group than would usually be present for such a summit, and one that excluded representatives from the major wire services." The size "appeared designed to match the number of North Korean 'journalists' present, according to a press pool, and led to tension between US media and White House officials on the ground in Singapore." White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders told Politico, "We have worked very hard to provide access to the media at this event and continually expanded coverage throughout the morning."

Trump To Depart Singapore Early.

Reuters (6/11, Holland) reports the White House said Monday that discussions with North Korea had moved "more quickly than expected" and Trump would leave Singapore on Tuesday night. He had earlier been scheduled to leave on Wednesday. Two US officials told Bloomberg News (6/11, 4.46M) that Kim "set a deadline for ending" the summit, prompting Trump "to set an earlier-than-expected departure time." The officials said Trump "had been willing to stay longer if negotiations were progressing, but since Kim set definite plans for departure, so did Trump."

The AP (6/11, Miller, Lucey, Lederman) too says Trump announced on the eve of the meeting "that he will be leaving Singapore early because the nuclear negotiations have moved 'more quickly than expected.' That was before the two had even met, and it was not clear whether it was good news or not."

Ahead of Tuesday's summit, Trump tweeted, "Meetings between staffs and representatives are going well and quickly...but in the end, that doesn't matter. We will all know soon whether or not a real deal, unlike those of the past, can happen!" He continued, "The fact that I am having a meeting is a major loss for the U.S., say the haters & losers. We have our hostages, testing, research and all missile launches have stoped, and these pundits, who have called me wrong from the beginning, have nothing else they can say! We will be fine!"

Pompeo: Denuclearization "Ultimate Objective" Of Summit.

Ahead of today's summit, Reuters (6/11, Spetalnick, Brunnstrom) reports Secretary of State Pompeo said the "ultimate objective" of the

summit had not changed and the US was "eager to see" if North Korea was sincere about denuclearization. Pompeo told reporters Trump was "fully prepared" for the talks, and was optimistic that the outcome would be "successful," while warning that there was still "lots of work left to do."

Bloomberg News (6/11, Jacobs, Olorunnipa, Tweed, 4.46M) reports Pompeo also said the US plans to keep sanctions in place until North Korea denuclearizes yet is prepared to offer "unique" guarantees to the regime. In what Bloomberg calls a "stern message to Pyongyang," he also stressed that complete denuclearization "is the only outcome that the United States will accept" from North Korea.

Breitbart (6/11, Caplan, 1.28M) reports Pompeo said the US is prepared to take actions to provide North Korea with "sufficient certainty" that denuclearization "is not something that ends badly for them." The Washington Times (6/11, Miller, 460K) likewise says Pompeo said the US "is prepared to offer new security assurance," but "refused to elaborate."

To the Los Angeles Times (6/11, Bierman, 4.03M), Pompeo also "publicly downplay[ed] expectations that the nuclear summit will lead to anything beyond future talks," and the Washington Post (6/11, Nakamura, Rucker, 15.68M) says Trump too "has sought to lower expectations for the summit in recent days, suggesting that it would be the start of a lengthy process to get Pyongyang to begin dismantling its nuclear and ballistic missile programs."

Kellyanne Conway said on Fox News' Hannity  Video (6/11, 3.26M),

"This President knows that sometimes negotiations like this take one, two, three, four, five or more meetings. You can't change 70 years of war and a country that has isolated itself from most of the rest of the world as it becomes nuclear capable. And you can't expect that to turn around in a day or a meeting. Let's remember what's changed from past President attempts. It is the leadership and the vision of President Trump. It's his ability to reframe the way we look at relations around the globe. And I will tell you, this is not an American issue. The denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula is everybody's business."

Sean Hannity said on [Fox News' Hannity 📺 Video \(6/11, 3.26M\)](#), "There has been a lot of talk will they be talking beyond denuclearization about human rights? Will he they be talking about possible reunification of North and South Korea somewhere down the line? All of those issues, I'm sure, will be discussed at some point. But as the President was very clear when he left Washington, he was saying this is a process. There will be nothing signed here, he said. He said this might take two, three, four, five meetings or maybe even more. But it is certainly worth it if we can make the world a safer place. But, again, the core argument and mandate of the United States and this is very clear. It is complete, verifiable, irreversible denuclearization of the Korean peninsula."

Hannity To Interview Trump After Summit.

[Axios](#) (6/11, Swan, 2.49M) reports that it has learned Trump's "first sit-down television interview after his historic summit" with Kim is expected to be with Hannity, "his friend and confidant." A Fox News spokeswoman "confirmed the interview" will air in full on Fox News' Hannity on Tuesday.

WPost Analysis: Trump's Feud With Trudeau "Looks Like A Stunt."

Callum Borchers writes for the Washington Post (6/11, 15.68M) "The Fix" blog that Trump's "rationale for lashing out at Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau does not add up." In a tweet, Trump pointed to "Justin's false statements at his news conference" and "the fact that Canada is charging massive Tariffs." But Borchers notes that Canadian tariffs "were in place long before the summit and did not prevent Trump from initially endorsing the G7 statement on trade." He notes that "what was new was Trudeau's news conference Saturday, where he said that Canadians 'will not be pushed around.'" According to Borchers, "It appears as though Trump is the one performing a stunt, raging at Trudeau in theatrical fashion without a clear reason to be so worked up. In fact, [White House economic adviser Larry] Kudlow suggested in his appearance on CNN that Trump's anger at Trudeau is an act for an audience of one: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un."


Kim Takes Late-Night Sightseeing Tour In Singapore.

Reuters (6/11, Holland) reports that Kim, "one of the world's most reclusive leaders, made an evening tour of sites on Singapore's waterfront." He was joined by Singapore's foreign minister, Vivian Balakrishnan, "who took a selfie." Reuters says the "rare public appearance of Kim, waving and smiling to onlookers, adds to the more affable image of the young leader that has emerged since his summit in April with South Korean leader Moon Jae-in."

Bloomberg News (6/11, Zhai, Lee, 4.46M) similarly says the trip "marked a rare outing in a modern metropolis for a reclusive leader" who has "sought to overhaul his image this year." To the Washington Post (6/11, Fifield, 15.68M), "the Singaporean hosts seemed to be

daring Kim to think big, to dream of the kind of glittering future his country could have if it opens up to the outside world, as they took him on the late-evening tour."

Dennis Rodman: Kim "Trying To Progress His Country."

Dennis Rodman said on [CNN's Cuomo Prime Time](#)  Video (6/11, 839K), "If President Trump goes in there with a great heart, with his heart on the table, and lets Kim Jong-un see him, really emotional, as far as speaking to him." Kim, Rodman added, "is trying to progress his country. And Donald Trump is going to do a great job and try to reach out and make sure our hands, America's hands always open.... If Trump can pull this off, more power to him."

The [Gateway Pundit](#) (6/11, Taylor, 201K) notes that Rodman wore a red Trump "Make America Great Again" hat during his "emotional interview" with CNN.

Politico Analysis: "Trump Made Diplomacy Great Again."

Blake Hounshell writes for [Politico Magazine](#) (6/11, 3.45M) that when "candidate Barack Obama said in a 2007 debate that he'd meet with the leaders of rogue states – including North Korea – without preconditions, critics pounced. ... Flash forward to today, and what are Republicans saying about the current president's willingness – eagerness, even – to cut a nuclear deal with the most roguish leader of them all, North Korean strongman Kim Jong Un?" Not much, according to Hounshell, who notes that Democrats "have largely welcomed Trump's North Korea diplomacy." He argues that "whether he succeeds or fails, to his

supporters, is almost beside the point – the president is making diplomacy great again.”

NYTimes Editorial Board Member Suggests Summit A Distraction From Russia Probe.

The Daily Caller (6/11, Nista, 420K) reports New York Times editorial board member Mara Gay suggested Monday on MSNBC that today’s summit “exists to distract from the Russia investigation.” Said Wallace, “This is not just a meeting about foreign policy, this is about Donald Trump’s political survival. He has said to friends that he plans on taking a win in North Korea to the voters. That’s their midterm message; that’s all they’ve got.”

Trump To Hold Rally In MN8 Next Week.

The Minneapolis Star Tribune (6/11, Golden, Van Berkel Star, 1.16M) reports the President “will make his first post-election visit to Minnesota...on June 20 at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center.” The Duluth (MN) News Tribune (6/11, Olsen, 195K) notes that “Trump, who campaigned in Superior in April 2016, will be the first sitting president to visit Duluth since George W. Bush in 2004.”

As KSJR-FM Collegeville, MN (6/11, 92K) reports, Duluth is “the battleground for the open and highly competitive 8th Congressional

District seat," which Trump won in 2016 even as Rep. Rick Nolan (D-MN) "held onto the seat in a close election and Minnesota chose Hillary Clinton for president." Nolan "earlier this year announced he would not seek re-election to the district, giving Republicans a key opportunity to flip the seat." While "four Democrats are headed for an August primary at this point," St. Louis County Commissioner Pete Stauber "is the lone Republican in the 8th District race. He's a retired Duluth police officer who's also served on the Hermantown City Council and in younger years played minor league professional hockey." The Washington Examiner (6/11, Quinn, 340K) indicates, moreover, that "both of Minnesota's senators, Democrats Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith, are on the ballot this November."

The Hill (6/11, Samuels, 2.71M) quotes "Michael Glassner, COO of the Trump campaign," as saying in a statement, "The President will meet with Minnesota patriots to report the latest developments for our surging economy, including record-low unemployment and fair trade reforms, and his historic summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un." The Hill adds that the event "could be viewed as a sign of confidence from Trump on his chances in Minnesota." The President "narrowly lost the state, which has been won by every Democratic candidate for president since 1972."

The St. Paul (MN) Pioneer Press (6/11, Woltman, 453K) notes that "in an emailed statement, Jennifer Carnahan, chairwoman of the Republican Party of Minnesota, said she is excited to welcome the president back to the state." Said Carnahan, "The importance of Minnesota this election cycle – in influencing the balance of power in Washington D.C. for the next two years and ensuring we send the President conservative reinforcements – depends on our ability to Make Minnesota Red. ... We look forward to the momentum and positive energy his visit will bring to Minnesota Republicans and our opportunities this election cycle."

Trump Hails High Court Ruling Allowing Ohio To Drop Inactive Voters From Rolls.

President Trump took to Twitter yesterday to write, "Just won big Supreme Court decision on Voting! Great News!" Trump was referring to a case involving Ohio, which is receiving widespread print media coverage this morning. The AP (6/11, Sherman) reports that the Supreme Court has ruled that states "can target people who haven't cast ballots in a while in efforts to purge their voting rolls." In a "5-4 vote that split the conservative and liberal justices, the court rejected arguments in a case from Ohio that the practice violates a federal law intended to increase the ranks of registered voters." The AP adds "Ohio's contested voter purge stems from an inoffensive requirement in federal law that states have to make an effort to keep their voter rolls in good shape by removing people who have moved or died." Ohio "pursues its goal more aggressively than most, relying on two things: voter inactivity over six years encompassing three federal elections and the failure to return a card...asking people to confirm that they have not moved and continue to be eligible to vote."

CNN (6/11, De Vogue, Vazquez, 82.6M) cautions on its website that "at least six other states have similar laws, and the ruling could embolden others to follow suit and enact what critics say are aggressive purges of voter rolls." The Washington Times (6/11, Dinan, 460K), in fact, reports "the ruling is already boosting conservative groups pushing to have other states clean up their voter rolls."

Politico (6/11, Gerstein, 3.51M) calls the ruling "a victory for the Trump administration," and NPR (6/11, Totenberg, Montanaro, 3.55M) noted that "the Obama Justice Department had sided with the lead plaintiff in the case, Larry Harmon, a software engineer from the Akron area," but "once [President] Trump was elected, the DOJ did an about-face and switched positions."

The Los Angeles Times (6/11, Savage, 4.03M) says "the legal dispute played out against a backdrop where two major parties had opposite views. Republicans spoke of 'voter fraud' and election rolls they said were stocked with ineligible and illegal voters, while Democrats complained of "voter suppression" by GOP states which, they said, made it harder for minorities and the poor to cast ballots." To USA Today (6/11, Wolf, 11.4M), along those lines, "the ruling could be a major victory for Republicans, who tend to benefit from lower voter turnout, and a stinging loss for Democrats, who do best in high-turnout elections." That is "because minorities, young people and those with lower incomes are most likely to be disenfranchised by the state's policy." Newsweek (6/11, Goodkind, 2.18M) also reports "a number of civil rights groups argued that the decision would likely aid Republicans but hurt Democrats and voters of color."

The Cleveland Plain Dealer (6/11, Eaton, 1.03M) notes "Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted called the ruling in the case known as Husted v. A. Philip Randolph Institute 'a victory for election integrity, and a defeat for those who use the federal court system to make election law across the country.'" Husted "is Attorney General Mike DeWine's running mate in this year's governor's race." DeWine said yesterday, "I am pleased that the United States Supreme Court agreed that Ohio was following federal law in maintaining accurate voter rolls. ... I congratulate our attorneys throughout this case for their exceptional work in documenting how this

process used by Democrat and Republican secretaries of state is indeed lawful." The Columbus (OH) Dispatch (6/11, Torry, Ludlow, 399K) reports Sen. Sherrod Brown, "a former secretary of state, assailed the ruling, saying 'Ohio should be working to make voting easier, not harder. Instead, today's decision empowers Ohio to further strip away the right to vote for thousands of Ohioans, threatening the integrity of our state's election process.'"

CQ Roll Call (6/11, Ruger, 117K) reports House Minority Leader Pelosi "called the decision dangerous and 'a grave step backward in our nation's progress to advance a future in which every person can enjoy their full, equal right to be heard at the ballot box.'"

It was, Reuters (6/11, Chung) reports, "a ruling powered by the five conservative justices and denounced by liberal Justice Sonia Sotomayor as an endorsement of the disenfranchisement of minority and low-income Americans." The Columbus (OH) Dispatch (6/11, Torry, Ludlow, 399K) reports that in his ruling, Justice Alito said Ohio's system "does not violate federal laws approved in 1993 and 2002 by Congress." Wrote Alito, "We have no authority to second-guess Congress or to decide whether (the Ohio's law) is the ideal method for keeping its voting rolls up to date. ... The only question before us is whether it violates federal law. It does not."

Meanwhile, says the Washington Post (6/11, Barnes, 15.68M), Sotomayor wrote in her dissent, "Communities that are disproportionately affected by unnecessarily harsh registration laws should not tolerate efforts to marginalize their influence in the political process, nor should allies who recognize blatant unfairness stand idly by." Alito retorted, "Justice Sotomayor's dissent says nothing about what is relevant in this case – namely, the language of the" National

Voter Registration Act, and “has not pointed to any evidence in the record that Ohio instituted or has carried out its program with discriminatory intent.”

NPR (6/11, Totenberg, Montanaro, 3.55M) reported “the first line of the opinion lays out evidence for why Alito sees the need to clean up voter rolls.” Wrote Alito, “It has been estimated that 24 million voter registrations in the United States – about one in eight – are either invalid or significantly inaccurate,” and “about 2.75 million people are said to be registered to vote in more than one State.” Alito was referencing “a Pew Center on the States” report, “the same study that incoming Trump White House officials cited – misleadingly – to make the case that voter fraud was occurring and immigrants in the US illegally were voting.”

Fox News (6/11, Mears, 16.38M) reports on its website that “Alito, in his opinion, clarified that states could not use the failure to vote as the sole reason for removal from the register.” Officials “would be required to show someone had changed their residence, was incarcerated or met other criteria.” The New York Times (6/11, Liptak, Subscription Publication, 19.33M) indicates, however, that “the central question in the case was whether a failure to vote could be the reason to send out the notice.”

Politico (6/11, Gerstein, 3.51M) reports that “Stuart Naifeh, senior counsel at Demos, which led the legal team challenging the state’s practices,” said yesterday that the ruling “threatens the ability of voters to have their voices heard in our elections.” The Wall Street Journal (6/11, Kendall, Bravin, Subscription Publication, 6.13M), Washington Examiner (6/11, Quinn, 340K) and The Hill (6/11, Wheeler, 2.71M), among other news outlets, run similar reports on the ruling.

More Commentary.

The Washington Post (6/11, 15.68M) editorializes that “though the court majority determined that” Ohio’s approach to purging the voter rolls “is legal, it is not wise,” as “states should be encouraging more civic participation, not less.” The Post adds that in the US, “political legitimacy flows from popular approval,” and “systematically discouraging sections of the populace from voting is cynical and detrimental to the democracy.” USA Today (6/11, 11.4M) offers similar arguments in an editorial titled “Supreme Court Upholds Ohio’s Vote Suppression Scheme.”

In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (6/11, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) defends the ruling, hailing it as a step toward more accurate voter rolls. Pete Hutchison, president of Landmark Legal Foundation, writes in USA Today (6/11, 11.4M) that “the dissenting justices object to the Ohio Legislature’s policy decisions,” but “the job of judging is to apply the law as written and not to second-guess the people’s representatives. Monday’s decision is a victory for ballot integrity.”

Trump-Recruited GOP Candidate Frustrated By Trump’s “Affinity” For Heitkamp.

The Washington Post (6/11, Sullivan, 15.68M) reports, “President

Trump is aggressively campaigning for Republican Senate candidates around the country and belittling their Democratic rivals, with one notable exception – Sen. Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota.” The President’s “affinity for Heitkamp, who got a shout-out and a handshake at a recent White House bill signing, has frustrated top Republicans who see winning her Democratic seat as crucial to holding onto their fragile 51-to-49 majority.” Rep. Kevin Cramer (R-ND), “whom Trump personally recruited to run against Heitkamp,” has contacted Chief of Staff Kelly “to appeal for political help” and has “traded warning shots with Trump’s legislative affairs director, Marc Short.”

Obama Meeting With Potential 2020 Democratic Presidential Candidates.

CNN (6/11, Merica, 82.6M) reports on its website, “Barack Obama has met with several Democrats considering running for president in 2020, a Democrat close to the former president tells CNN, offering them advice on running in the Trump era and discussing how to position the party going forward.” CNN adds that “to date, according to the Democrat, Obama has met with Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders; Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren; former Vice President Joe Biden; former Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick; New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker; former New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu; Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti; South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Peter Buttigieg; former Missouri Secretary of State Jason Kander; and former Attorney General Eric Holder.”

Politico (6/11, Dove, 3.51M) says “Obama is concerned about how his

own party is responding" to President Trump, "and how it can be best positioned to win in the midterms and in the next presidential cycle to beat back the president and his politics." Obama, adds Politico, "doesn't see himself as the person to come up with the plan," but "he is eager to be a sounding board and counselor."

New D'Souza Film Compares Anti-Trump "Resistance" To Democrats' Opposition To Lincoln.

The Hill (6/11, Concha, 2.71M) reports "conservative filmmaker Dinesh D'Souza, who was recently pardoned by President Trump, is making comparisons for his next film between the Democratic resistance to Trump and how Democrats didn't accept President Lincoln's reelection during the Civil War." The Twitter "account for D'Souza's next film, 'Death of a Nation,'" stated yesterday, "Not since 1865 have #Democrats so dramatically refused to accept the outcome of a presidential election." D'Souza also weighed in on Twitter, asking, "Lincoln united his party and saved America from the Democrats for the first time. Can Trump – and wen-- come together and save America for the second time?"

Trump Highlights Good Economic News.

In a tweet Monday afternoon, Trump touted his economic record, writing, "Stock Market up almost 40% since the Election, with 7 Trillion Dollars of U.S. value built throughout the economy. Lowest unemployment rate in many decades, with Black & Hispanic unemployment lowest in History, and Female unemployment lowest in 21 years. Highest confidence ever!"

Stocks Rise Slightly.

Trump's tweet came on a day that stocks posted slight gains. Reuters (6/11, Brown) reports that the Dow climbed 5.78 points to 25,322.31, the S&P 500 added 2.97 points to close at 2,782, and the Nasdaq ended the day 14.41 points higher at 7,659.93.

Fed weighs Historically Low Unemployment In Considering Rate Decision.

The Wall Street Journal (6/11, Timiraos, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) reports that as the Federal Reserve prepares to announce whether it will raise the benchmark short-term interest rate on Wednesday, it is considering how far unemployment may fall without stoking inflation. The Journal adds that the US unemployment rate has only hit its current level of 3.8% twice before in the past 50 years, one of which, in the 1960s, spurred high inflation. The article adds that the Fed is projected to increase its short-term rate to between 1.75% and two percent, adding that Fed Chairman Jerome Powell's view of the near-term future of US unemployment will drive Fed interest rate decisions.

Maher Hopes For Recession So We Can "Get Rid Of Trump."

Writing on [Townhall](#) (6/11, 209K), Matt Vespa cites a RealClear Politics [report](#) which said that comedian Bill Maher said Friday that he is hoping for a recession so we can "get rid of Trump." On his HBO show Real Time, Maher said, "Can I ask about the economy because this economy is going pretty well? I feel like the bottom has to fall out at some point. And by the way, I'm hoping for it. Because I think one way you get rid of Trump is a crashing economy. So, please, bring on the recession. Sorry if that hurts people, but it's either root for a recession or you lose your democracy."

Pai: Expiration Of Net Neutrality Means A Return To Clinton-Era Framework.

The [Washington Times](#) (6/11, Muñoz, 460K) reports that as net neutrality regulations ended Monday, FCC Chairman Ajit Pai "touted a return to past policies," saying the "new approach is actually more like the policy set in place by former President Bill Clinton." Pai told CBS This Morning, "President Clinton's framework, it served us well from '96 until 2015, and I'm confident going forward." [Reuters](#) (6/11, Shepardson) says that while the net neutrality rules expired Monday, "a court battle remains ahead."

Pentagon Officials Distance Themselves From LGBT Pride Month Observances.

The Washington Post (6/11, Sonne, 15.68M) reports that for the first time since the practice became routine in the wake of President Obama's repeal of the military's ban on homosexuals serving openly, senior Pentagon officials "are distancing themselves from the Defense Department's annual LGBT Pride Month celebrations." While an official Pentagon memo is typically distributed at the beginning of LGBT Pride Month in June, the absence of the memo this year "has raised questions among service members and Defense Department civilian employees who remain troubled by President Trump's surprise proclamation last July that he would ban transgender individuals from serving in the military."

Biden Heckled During Book Tour Stop In Delaware.

The Wilmington (DE) News Journal (6/11, Price, 304K) reports that former Vice President Joe Biden was heckled during a book tour stop in his hometown of Wilmington, Delaware on Sunday. As Biden "was talking about sexual assault," the heckler asked, "What about the girls you molested on C-SPAN at the Senate swearing in?" The taunt drew boos and shouting from the audience, but Biden "quieted the crowd enough to respond: 'This is not Trump world,' which drew a deluge of applause and cheers, even as catcalls and boos aimed at the heckler continued."

Poll: Scott “Dominating” Nelson Among Florida Voters 50 And Older.

Politico (6/11, Caputo, 3.51M) reports that a forthcoming Politico/AARP poll shows that Gov. Rick Scott “is virtually tied” with Sen. Bill Nelson in the Florida Senate race, and is “dominating” Nelson “by 9 points among those nearing or at retirement age – a group that casts the majority of Florida’s votes.” Overall, “Scott leads Nelson overall by 40 percent to 39 percent, but Scott’s support grows to 44 percent while Nelson’s shrinks to 35 percent with those 50 and older.”

McClatchy Analysis: Sanford Fighting For Political Life In SC1 GOP Primary.

McClatchy (6/11, Douglas, Dumain, 81K) reports that Rep. Mark Sanford (R-SC) is fighting for his political life in his Tuesday primary “thanks to his disagreements with President Donald Trump.” Recent polling shows Sanford and State Rep. Katie Arrington “in a statistical tie” in SC1.

In AL2, Rouby Faces Runoff Amid Questions About Her Loyalty To Trump.

The New York Times (6/11, Blinder, Martin, Subscription Publication, 19.33M) reports that President Trump “has become a one-man litmus test in some of his party’s primaries, imperiling incumbents in races where policy issues seem to matter less to voters than personal loyalty to the president.” In AL2, Republican voters “face a peculiar choice in a runoff” – Rep. Martha Roby (R-AL), “who condemned Mr. Trump but has since voted nearly in lock step with him,” or Bobby Bright, “who was once a Democrat who supported Nancy Pelosi, but now sounds much like the president.” That Rouby was “forced into a runoff by questions of personal fealty illustrates the potency of the issue in this year’s Republican primaries.”

Democrats Consulting With Hollywood Ahead Of Midterms.

Politico (6/11, Siders, 3.51M) reports that the DNC and Democratic lawmakers are “quietly consulting” with Hollywood actors, writers, and producers for “help with voter turnout and messaging ahead of the midterm elections and 2020 presidential campaign.” DNC Chairman Tom Perez, several House members, and others have met with a group “formed by members of the entertainment industry in the wake of the 2016 election,” to discuss “targeted voter-registration programs with visiting Democrats, as well as the party’s framing of issues ranging from abortion rights to gun control.”

AP Analysis: Democratic House Candidates Pushing Liberal Messages.

The AP (6/11, Barrow, Beaumont) reports that Democrats' midterm House candidates are "shaping up to test what liberal messages the party can sell to the moderate and GOP-leaning voters who will help determine control of the House after the November election." According to the AP, "the crop of nominees is trending more liberal than many of the 'Blue Dog' Democrats swept away in Republicans' 2010 midterm romp." As a result, "voters now represented by a Republican will be asked to consider some or all of the mainstream Democratic priorities that may have been considered 'too liberal' in the past: more government involvement in health insurance, tighter gun laws, a path to citizenship for people in the country illegally, reversing parts of the GOP tax law, support for LGBTQ rights." The question is whether that will result in "Democrats gaining the 23 new seats they need for a majority."

Democrats Hope Anti-Trump Sentiment Will Help Unseat Comstock.

The Washington Times (6/11, Sherfinski, 460K) reports that Democrats "are counting on an anti-Trump backlash, a desire to overturn the Republican-led Congress and a surge of interest in gun control to unseat suburban Republicans" like Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-VA) in VA10. But Comstock "said she has been a top target in her past two elections yet emerged with a 16-percentage-point victory in 2014 and won re-election by 6 points in 2016, even as Hillary Clinton carried the district

by close to double digits.” Comstock “is highlighting her vote for Republican tax cuts and her work combating violent gangs in the region as she tries to shore up the pro-Trump elements of her party.”

Female Gubernatorial Candidates Say They Face Resistance To Female Executive Power.

The New York Times (6/11, Martin, Burns, Subscription Publication, 19.33M) reports that while women “have emerged as the animating force behind the backlash to President Trump, with many storming to victory in congressional primaries, several are finding governor’s races to be more challenging as they struggle to build as much political and financial support as their male rivals.” From today through September, “female candidates for governor will be on the ballot in Democratic primaries across 17 states, including pivotal battlegrounds such as Florida, Wisconsin and Colorado,” but “several said they are facing entrenched resistance to female power at the executive level, and male opponents with deeper campaign coffers and, in some cases, far less political experience.”

Bill Clinton: Norms Of “What You Can Do To Someone Against Her Will” Have Changed.

The Daily Caller (6/11, Athey, 420K) reports that in an interview with PBS on Friday, former President Bill Clinton "made a disturbing statement about sexual consent." Asked about the resignation of Sen. Al Franken and what that says about changing norms, Clinton said, "I think it's a good thing that we should all have higher standards," Clinton said. "I think the norms have really changed in terms of, what you can do to somebody against their will, how much you can crowd their space, make them miserable at work."

USA Today (6/11, Cummings, 11.4M) reports that Clinton "said that Franken was 'a difficult case' for him because while there may be facts he doesn't know about the allegations, many of Franken's past female colleagues came to his defense." Clinton said, "Maybe I'm just an old-fashioned person... but it seemed to me that there were 29 women on 'Saturday Night Live' that put out a statement for him, and that the first and most fantastic story was called, I believe, into question." Referring to Franken's resignation, he added that it is "a grievous thing to take away from the people a decision they have made. ... But it's done now."

Poll: 53% See Clinton As A Sexual Predator.

Katie Pavlich writes on Townhall (6/11, 209K) that the latest Rasmussen Reports poll found that "just 24% of Likely U.S. Voters consider Clinton a victim of his political opponents. Fifty-three percent (53%) describe the ex-president as a sexual predator instead. Another 24% are undecided."

Broadway Veterans, Trump Critics Struggle With De Niro's Tony Comments.

The Washington Post (6/11, Zeitchik, 15.68M) reports that actor Robert De Niro's speech at the Tony Awards, in which he said, "F---Trump. ... It's no longer down with Trump...but F--- Trump," made "a Broadway extravaganza and a beloved American actor...a lightning-rod referendum on Trumpism." The Post adds that at a post-ceremony party, "the Trump moment was on many Broadway veterans' minds. They just couldn't figure out what to make of it or whether what he did was a good thing."

The Washington Times (6/11, Chasmar, 460K) reports that MSNBC host Joe Scarborough said De Niro and those who applauded his comments are unwittingly aiding the President's re-election. Scarborough said, "If people that applauded De Niro's statement last night don't understand that they are helping Donald Trump's re-election every time they do something like that, they don't understand."

Twitter CEO Draws Fire For Chick-Fil-A Post During Pride Month.

USA Today (6/11, Carrig, 11.4M) reports that Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey apologized after a tweet in which he said he ordered food from Chick-fil-A drew criticism on social media. Dorsey was criticized "for supporting Chick-fil-A during" June, which is LGBTQ Pride Month. In 2012, Chick-

fil-A "came under fire from gay rights supporters...because of comments made by the fast food chicken chain's CEO, Dan Cathy, expressing opposition to same-sex marriage" and the company's donations to anti-gay groups. Amid the backlash from his original tweet, Dorsey wrote, "You're right. Completely forgot about their background."

Under the headline "Jack Dorsey Chickens Out," a Wall Street Journal (6/11, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) editorial takes issue with the criticism of Dorsey and argues the Chick-fil-A restaurants serves everyone and Cathy was expressing his personal beliefs when he voiced opposition to gay marriage.

Rubio Defends Chick-Fil-A.

The Washington Times (6/11, Richardson, 460K) reports that Sen. Marco Rubio "stood up for Chick-fil-A" in a series of tweets. Rubio "questioned the prudence of boycotting a company for holding a mainstream Christian view on marriage." He wrote, "This lunacy has gone too far. The CEO of @Twitter bullied into apology for patronizing @ChickfilA because owners support "biblical definition of marriage. Holding a personal view taught by mainstream Christianity is now boycott worthy." Rubio followed that with another, saying, "@ChickfilA isn't denying service to anyone. But if you eat there you must be attacked by the twitter mob b/c owner agrees with what his church teaches about marriage? Why would twitter mob stop at biz owned by Christians? Who is next? Christian schools? Christian charities?" In a final tweet, Rubio wrote, "The message from latest @ChickfilA incident is this: "Your church can still teach traditional marriage (which by the way we will still label as a bigoted belief) but don't you dare repeat it outside of church or we will come after you, your business and/or your job."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"*The Healthcare Stalkers.*" The New York Times (6/11, Subscription Publication, 19.33M) similarly argues in an editorial that Democrats who hope "to make health care a centerpiece of midterm election campaigns just got a gift from the Trump administration," as the Justice Department has "declined to defend the Affordable Care Act against a lawsuit filed by 20 Republican-led states," and is "arguing for the repeal of enormously popular consumer protections, including coverage of pre-existing conditions."

"America Isolated."

The New York Times (6/11, Subscription Publication, 19.33M) writes on its editorial page that last weekend's G7 summit was "a confirmation that so long as Mr. Trump is in the White House, and maybe beyond

that, something fundamental in the community of Western democracies will be missing. America, the leader of the free world and the architect of so much of the modern world order, had decided to go its own way." The Times argues that "it's past time to recognize that this president has transformed 'America First' into 'America Alone,' and that this is the last place a great and powerful nation wants to be."

Washington Post.

"Why Are Republicans So Determined To Discourage People From Voting?" The Washington Post (6/11, 15.68M) editorializes that "though the [Supreme Court] majority determined that" Ohio's approach to purging the voter rolls "is legal, it is not wise," as "states should be encouraging more civic participation, not less." The Post adds that in the US, "political legitimacy flows from popular approval," and "systematically discouraging sections of the populace from voting is cynical and detrimental to the democracy."

"Canada Has Every Right To Be Insulted."

The Washington Post editorializes that Canada "has every right to be insulted that Mr. Trump would invoke national security in their trade dispute. Canada has stood with the United States in every modern war and crisis. There is no doubt that the United States could rely on Canadian steel and aluminum if another crisis developed, obviating the stated rationale for imposing the tariffs." Trump's "trade offensive," it argues, "is an insult."

Wall Street Journal.

"The Autumn Of Obamacare." A Wall Street Journal (6/11, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) editorial says that while Democrats are blaming Republicans for double-digit healthcare premium increases, the problem is the structure of the ACA. As the election approaches, the Journal adds, Republicans will have to refute the Democrats' false claims.

"Jack Dorsey Chickens Out."

A Wall Street Journal (6/11, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) editorial takes issue with criticism of Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey over a tweet in which he said he ordered food from Chick-fil-A. The Journal argues the Chick-fil-A restaurants serves everyone and that Chick-fil-A CEO Dan Cathy was expressing his personal beliefs when he voiced opposition to gay marriage.

"A Victory For Voting Law."

In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (6/11, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) defends the Supreme Court ruling on states purging voter rolls, hailing it as a step toward more accurate voter rolls.

The Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

Trump Greets Kim To Kick Off Summit

The Fed's Biggest Dilemma: Is The Booming Job Market A Problem?

Stryker Makes Takeover Approach To Boston Scientific

Buyer Beware When A Stock Joins The S&P 500

New York Times:

Trump, After Talks With Kim, Says Denuclearization Will Begin 'Quickly'

Sessions Says Domestic And Gang Violence Are Not Grounds For Asylum

Supreme Court Upholds Ohio's Purge Of Voting Rolls

New York City Housing Authority, Accused Of Endangering Residents, Agrees To Oversight

Democratic Women Are Running For Governor. Men And Money Stand In Their Way.

The Nine Steps Required To Really Disarm North Korea

Washington Post:

Trump And North Korea's Kim Meet For Historic Summit

Justices Uphold Ohio's System For Purging Rolls Of Nonvoters

President Increasingly Relies On Unilateral Action To Wield Power

Smiles And Handshakes Could Mask Divide Over Nuclear Arms

Is MS-13 Overtaking A Middle School In MD.?

Financial Times:

Citi Issues Stark Warning On Automation Of Bank Jobs

Martin Sorrell's Downfall: Why The Ad King Left WPP

Duque Readies To Become Colombia's Youngest President

Spain To Take In 629 Migrants Stranded At Sea After Italy Refuses

Washington Times:

Trump, Kim Jong-Un Sign Document, Pledge To Work Together For Peace

Jeff Sessions Sets Higher Bar For Asylum Claims

USS Pueblo Still Held Hostage By North Korea As Trump, Kim Meet

Va. Democrats Banking On Anti-Trump Backlash In Bid To Unseat Rep. Barbara Comstock

Redskins Replacement Players From 1987 To Get Super Bowl Rings

Murky U.S. Drone-Strike Policy Threatens To Backfire As Other Nations Acquire Technology

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: US-North Korea Relations-Summit; US-North Korea Relations-Kim-Jong-Un Insights; US-North Korea Relations-Korean Peninsula; Trump-G7 Allies Relations; Severe Weather; Trump-Immigration; Orlando-Hostage Situation; Washington State-Cabin Explosion; United Airlines-Security Threat; Anthony Bourdain-Suicide; US-North Korea Relations-Kim Jong-Un Out Late.

CBS: US-North Korea Relations-Summit; Trump-G7 Allies Relations; US-North Korea Relations-Kim-Jong-Un Insights; US-North Korea Relations-Denuclearization; US-North Korea Relations-Trump's Deal Making; Colorado-Wildfires; Orlando-Hostage Situation; Anthony Bourdain-Suicide; North Korea Defector.

NBC: US-North Korea Relations-Summit; US-North Korea Relations-Kim-Jong-Un Insights; US-North Korea Relations-Singapore; US-North Korea Relations-South Korea; Trump-G7 Allies Relations; Trump-Immigration; Missing US Official Found; Orlando-Hostage Situation; Colorado-Wildfires; Ohio-Explosion Investigation; US-North Korea Relations-Reactions.

Network TV At A Glance:

US-North Korea Relations-Summit – 13 minutes, 15 seconds

US-North Korea Relations-Kim-Jong-Un Insights – 11 minutes, 0 seconds

Trump-G7 Allies Relations – 6 minutes, 5 seconds

Orlando-Hostage Situation – 2 minutes, 50 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: US-North Korea Relations-Summit; US-North Korea Relations-Summit-Reactions; Orlando-Hostage Situation; Trump-Immigration.

CBS: US-North Korea Relations-Summit; WH-Kudlow Heart Attack; Trump-Immigration; Immigration-Cheating For Green Cards; Crash Test

Results; Wall Street.

FOX: US-North Korea Relations-Summit; WH-Kudlow Heart Attack; Supreme Court-Ohio Voter Ruling.

NPR: US-North Korea Relations-Summit; US-North Korea Relations-Choreographed Hand Shake; WH-Kudlow Heart Attack; WH-Treasury-Sanctions Against Russian Businesses; Trump-Immigration.

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel:

"When he left the G7, Trump said his relationship with the other leaders was a 10. He rated it a 10. And then a few hours later, I guess he didn't like the idea that the Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau didn't do as he was told, and so Trump tweeted, 'PM Justin Trudeau of Canada acted so meek and mild during our G7 meetings, only to give a news conference after I left saying that US tariffs were kind of insulting and he will not be pushed around. Very dishonest and weak. Our tariffs are in response to his of 270 percent on dairy.' Bearing in mind that first of all, our dairy trade with Canada – it's only about \$600 million a year, which is about what it costs for him to play golf every week."

Jimmy Kimmel:

"And he justified these new tariffs in the first place by saying our national security was at stake. Now he's saying it's because of dairy. How does Canadian dairy threaten our national security? Are they planning to churn us to death? Are they going to drop cheese curds on us and turn us into poutine?"

Jimmy Kimmel:

"And who has a problem with Canada? No one has a problem with Canada. It's like picking a fight with 'Nilla Wafers. No one does it. It's ridiculous."

Jimmy Kimmel:

"Trump also threatened to cut off all trade with the other six nations at the summit. All our closest allies. We would not trade with them anymore. German Chancellor Angela Merkel said she found his actions at the summit to be sobering and depressing. And when a German finds you to be sobering and depressing – bad news. This is the country that gave us Hitler and David Hasselhoff."

Stephen Colbert:

"Folks, it is an historic evening because, as we speak, President Trump is meeting with North Korean dictator Kim Jong-un, a scenario that, just a few years ago, would have been unthinkable because it includes the phrase 'President Trump.'"

Stephen Colbert:

"So tensions are high. The United States is on the precipice of unthinkable international conflict, and that's with Canada."

Stephen Colbert:

"If you're one of those nerds who values the Western alliance that has safeguarded democracy for 70 years, it was a tough weekend for you because Canada hosted the G7, and it did not go 'the good.' Keep in mind, the G7 are our trading partners, and right before he attended, Donald Trump declared protectionist trade tariffs against all of them. That's like showing up to an AA meeting with Captain Morgan."

James Corden:

"Tomorrow is the big summit meeting between President Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. Trump spent the day preparing for the summit, which basically means he wrote on his hands, 'South Korea good, North Korea bad,' so he doesn't get confused."

James Corden:

"When asked by reporters how he will know if North Korean leader Kim Jong-un is serious about a peace treaty, President Trump said he will use his 'touch and feel.' This may not be a great plan. The last time Trump used his 'touch and feel' method, he had to pay Stormy Daniels \$130,000."

James Corden:

"Honestly, it may work. After three minutes of being touched and felt by Trump, Kim Jong-un is just going to shout, 'Fine, take the nukes! Just stop touching me!'"

Jimmy Fallon:

"Tonight in Singapore, Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un finally came face to face. Or in Kim's case, more like face to belly button."

Jimmy Fallon:

"There's a lot riding on this meeting. Last night, Kim spent hours preparing, while at the same time, Trump was in bed waiting for 'Spongebob' to perform on the Tonys."

Seth Meyers:

"President Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un met tonight in Singapore after we taped our show. So if you're watching this on TV right now, either it went well, or you have a TV in your fallout shelter."

Seth Meyers:

"Dennis Rodman arrived in Singapore today for the summit with Kim Jong-un. So at least if Kim launches a nuclear missile, Rodman will be there to grab the rebound."

Conan O'Brien:

"This past weekend, President Trump told reporters he'll know if the Kim Jong-un meeting is going well by 'touch and feel.' That's what he said. In other words, Trump's lawyer is going to have to pay Kim Jong-un \$130,000."

Conan O'Brien:

"North Korean leader Kim Jong-un brought his own toilet to the summit"

in Singapore. When he saw the toilet, President Trump said, 'Oh, so you're planning to tweet, too.'"

Conan O'Brien:

"President Trump said that during the North Korea summit, he will not focus on human rights abuses. Trump said, 'My marriage is no one's business.'"

Trevor Noah:

"White House staffers have reportedly been taping pieces of paper back together after President Trump rips them up. They need to tape them back together to comply with the Presidential Records Act. According to Politico, the papers include letters and official documents required by law to be preserved and sent to the National Archives. ... President Trump's tearing up official documents? I mean, let's not act surprised. After all, he spent the last year tearing up the Constitution."

Trevor Noah:

"I don't know why Trump rips up all his paper. My guess is to show off

how strong he is. 'Would an unhealthy President be able to do this?!'"

Trevor Noah:

Trump said "he wants Russia to be welcomed back into the G8. I don't know if Trump colluded with Russia, but if everyone was accusing me of colluding with Russia, I wouldn't be caught dead mentioning their name. If your girlfriend accused you of cheating with Keisha, even if you didn't do it, shut up about Keisha, just shut up."

Trevor Noah:

"Trump went into the G7 for a run-of-the-mill check-in with America's allies and came out full-on beefing with Canada, the Ned Flanders of countries."

Trevor Noah:

"Emmanuel Macron called Trump incoherent, and Angela Merkel said it is sobering and depressing. She is German, so everything is sobering and depressing to her. She was at breakfast saying, 'I find this pancake both sobering and depressing.'"

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TO: THE SECRETARY AND SENIOR STAFF

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LEADING THE NEWS

CMS Unveils New Guidance To Help States Fight Opioid Epidemic. The Hill (6/11, Roubein, 2.71M) reports that on Monday, CMS unveiled “guidance aimed at helping states leverage Medicaid to combat the opioid epidemic.” The article says “the guidance focused on information related to covering services for infants born exposed to opioids and how to enhance federal funding for telemedicine and programs that keep tabs on patients’ prescriptions.” HHS Secretary Alex Azar stated, “The number of American infants born dependent on opioids each day is heartbreaking. ... Today’s announcement reflects the Trump Administration and HHS’s commitment to helping states use Medicaid to support treatment for this condition and other challenges produced by our country’s crisis of opioid addiction.”

Fierce Healthcare (6/11, Stankiewicz, 146K) reports that the new guidance “includes summaries of different treatment modalities, including hospital and home-based services, as well as ways Medicaid can support parents with substance abuse disorder.” The agency “said states can create bundled rates for such services, instead of the traditional fee-for-service model.” Tim Hill, acting director of the Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services, is quoted as saying, “Through discussions with states, we have recognized their growing challenge in providing treatment services to the expanding number of infants with NAS [neonatal abstinence syndrome]. ... We have also recognized that states may not be fully aware of available options under Medicaid that can play a critical role in the care of these infants, as well as the limitations on Medicaid coverage.”

Healthcare Finance News (6/11, Morse, 93K) reports that so far, “CMS has approved substance use disorder related section 1115 demonstration projects in Louisiana, West Virginia, Indiana, New Jersey, Kentucky, Utah, Illinois, and Vermont to improve access to treatment for Medicaid beneficiaries.” The article adds that Hill also said, “By leveraging and improving the technological capabilities of state Medicaid programs, we are providing Medicaid agencies, providers, and patients with the tools they need to improve health outcomes associated with addiction.”

Health Exec (6/11, Leider) also covers the story.

CMS Says States Can Use Federal Funding To Make IT Improvements To Better Address Opioid Crisis. Fierce Healthcare (6/11, Sweeney, 146K) reports, “Federal funding is available to state Medicaid programs to enhance the use of technology to help states manage the opioid crisis, according to new guidance from” CMS. According to the agency, a lot of “funding is already available through existing legislation.” CMS is also urging “Medicaid program directors to use telehealth and telepsychiatry to coordinate care for patients with substance abuse disorder.” Tim Hill, acting director of the Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services, told Medicaid directors that “CMS doesn’t need to approve telehealth coverage changes for opioid treatment unless the state elects to cover telehealth encounters differently than in-person visits.”

Trump’s Decision Not To Defend The ACA Could Be A Boon To Dems During The Midterms. On its website, CNN (6/8, Merica, 82.6M) reports that the Trump Administration’s move to refuse “to defend key provisions of the Affordable Care Act could deal Democrats a sizable win going into the midterm elections, handing a party already prepared to run on health care a cudgel to use against vulnerable Republicans.” Several polls show voters consider healthcare the top issue in the midterms, “and Democratic candidates have responded by making it the cornerstone of their attacks on Republicans.” The article adds that last week, the Administration “clearly outlined” its stance “on key – and popular – provisions in the Affordable Care Act, telling a court that the law should be invalidated and that the individual mandate is unconstitutional.” The Justice Department also argued “in favor of invalidating protections for” people with pre-existing conditions.

Fortune (6/11, Mukherjee, 3.91M) reports that the Administration’s decision “could wind up being a political gift to Democrats in the 2018 mid-term elections, as it targets one of Obamacare’s single most popular provisions.” The article says the Administration is hoping the “courts will ultimately dismantle these Obamacare tenets,” and its support of this suit against the ACA is an effort to hasten the process. However, “it could prove a

political land mine (and boon to Democrats) going into the 2018 mid-term elections, if polling and recent campaigns are any indication.”

Politico (6/11, Diamond, 3.51M) reports that over the weekend, Democrats “seized” on the Administration’s “move to revive their charge that the GOP can’t be trusted to protect Americans’ health insurance.” Meanwhile, “few congressional Republicans rushed to defend the administration’s move, instead emphasizing their support for preserving pre-existing condition protections.”

The Daily Intelligencer (NY) (6/11, Levitz, 551K) reports that the Administration move is against the GOP’s “political interests.” The article says “Democratic consultants are cheering” the Administration’s decision. The piece adds that Democrats’ “No. 1 strategic objective has been to force health care to the front of voters’ minds – both to exploit the party’s advantage on that issue, and to undermine public support for the Trump tax cuts by reminding voters that the GOP always intended to pay for its regressive giveaway with cuts to Medicaid and Obamacare.”

Kaiser Health News (6/11, Bartolone) reports that on Friday, California Attorney General Xavier Becerra vowed “to redouble his efforts as the Affordable Care Act’s leading defender, saying attacks by the Trump Administration threaten health care for millions of Americans.” He argued that the Administration’s decision is, “simply put, an attack on the health care that millions of Americans have come to count on, and California, being the most successful state in implementing the Affordable Care Act, stands to lose perhaps more than anyone else.”

Commentary. Contributor Bruce Japsen writes in a Forbes (6/11, 10.34M) piece that physicians’ groups “are once again rallying to the defense of the Affordable Care Act after the U.S. Justice Department filed a brief that doesn’t defend the law’s popular protections for patients with preexisting conditions.” During “the American Medical Association annual meeting this week, doctors are discussing numerous ways to protect patients, updating its lobbying agenda to include ways to support the ACA.” Japsen says groups such as the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and the American Psychiatric Association also criticized the Administration, saying, “The elimination of these protections could result in millions of people facing limited access to health care coverage and higher cost as a result

of insurers being allowed to return to discriminatory coverage and pricing practices.”

Sarah Kliff writes in a Vox (6/11, 1.66M) piece that President Trump and the GOP are so intent on “killing Obamacare they’ve decided, just months before the midterm elections, to take aim at the most popular part of the law: coverage for preexisting conditions.” Kliff says the suit “is, in some ways, a perplexing move mere months before midterm elections. Polling finds that both Democrats and Republicans think it’s a good idea to ensure that sick people have access to health insurance.”

Yuval Rosenberg writes in the Fiscal Times (6/11, 7K) that the Trump Administration’s decision to not defend the ACA is “political dynamite” because polls show the protections for pre-existing conditions are popular and may affect as many as 52 million non-elderly Americans. Rosenberg adds, “Democrats, who have already been hammering a health care message, are pouncing at the new opportunity.”

THE SECRETARY IN THE NEWS

Azar To Testify About Drug Prices Before Senate Panel Today. In a news roundup, Politico (6/11, Pittman, 3.51M) reports HHS Secretary Alex Azar on Tuesday “will defend the Trump administration’s plan to lower the cost of medicines” before the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. Politico reports lawmakers are expected to “to try to pin down Azar on aspects that were lacking when the administration rolled out its blueprint last month,” noting that “Inside Health Policy reported last week the administration would soon announce that drug companies will lower their asking price on insulin.”

The C-SPAN Video Library (6/12, 28K) posts a feed for Secretary Azar’s scheduled testimony before the HELP Committee.

Trump Administration Meeting With Pharmaceutical Companies To Seek Voluntary Price Cuts. The Hill (6/11, Sullivan, 2.71M) reports officials from the Department of Health and Human Services have been meeting with pharmaceutical companies to “seek voluntary cuts in drug prices.” The Hill adds, “Voluntary cuts in prices would allow the administration to immediately tout benefits of President Trump’s drug pricing plan, which was

announced last month, rather than having to wait for any regulatory actions to be put forward and take effect.” An HHS spokesperson said Monday when asked for comment, “We are working with stakeholders across the spectrum including drug companies, [pharmacy benefit managers], distributors, patients, health care professionals, physicians, insurers, etc., to respond to President Trump’s call to action and help patients pay less for their prescription drugs.” HHS Secretary Alex Azar hinted at such talks last month, saying, “We look forward to working with industry to build a better drug-pricing system.”

Opinion: Trump Can Use Patent Law To Slash Prices For Naloxone. In an op-ed for the Washington Post (6/11, 15.68M), Public Citizen president Robert Weissman and Baltimore City Health Commissioner Leana Wen write that since President Trump declared the opioid crisis a public health emergency, “he and his administration have yet to take the steps that would help those fighting the epidemic on the front lines.” Weissman and Wen call on the President to “use existing legal authority to slash prices for the lifesaving drug naloxone...and for its easy-to-use, patented delivery devices.” They note that during the post-Sept. 11 anthrax scare, “amid public debate about employing government-use authority, then-Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy Thompson demanded that the ciprofloxacin patent holder, Bayer, match the price of generic makers.” They argue that the Administration “can choose to lower prices and save lives” or “perpetuate the rationing of lifesaving treatments.”

Donna Shalala Expresses Support For Single-Payer System Similar To The One Advocated By Bernie Sanders. Colby Itkowitz writes in the Washington Post (6/11, 15.68M) “Power Post” blog that during her tenure as HHS Secretary under President Clinton, “Donna Shalala fended off accusations that she was too liberal for the job. Now, as a candidate for Congress in a competitive Democratic primary, the former secretary must dust off her old progressive bona fides.” In the past, Shalala insisted that a single-payer system was not feasible. Now, however, “Shalala says she supports universal health care under a Bernie Sanders-style system that isn’t too different than ‘Medicare for All.’”

HHS IN THE NEWS

White House Wants HHS To Delay Issuing Final Rule On Religious, Moral Beliefs. Modern Healthcare (6/11, Dickson, Subscription Publication, 239K) reports that the White House wants HHS to delay issuing a final “rule that will require hospitals and physician practices to create standards and procedures to protect their employees’ religious and moral beliefs until it can elaborate how the policy will affect the industry.” The department “received more than 72,000 comments on the rulemaking before the March deadline,” and it “is still drafting a final version of the rule, but proactively asked the Office of Management and Budget to allow it to confirm that providers were both complying with the rule and notifying staff and patients of their rights.” The article says OMB denied HHS requests because the department “did not provide industry comments on how these changes would affect their business,” and it failed to “provide OMB with adequate estimates of the time it would take providers to implement the rule.”

Columnists Say Healthcare Will Be The Focus Of The Midterms Given Administration’s Decision Not To Defend The ACA. Former Acting CMS Administrator Andy Slavitt and Nicholas Bagley, a law professor at the University of Michigan and a former Justice Department attorney, write in a USA Today (6/11, 11.4M) column that President Trump and the GOP “just put America’s health care squarely on the November ballot.” Following their failure to repeal the ACA, “the Trump administration, in cahoots with 20 conservative states, has asked the courts to strike down several pillars of the ACA – including its protections for Americans with pre-existing health conditions.” Slavitt and Bagley add, “Nothing has defined the domestic agenda over the 18 months like health care. It’s only fitting that it will define the election too.”

Healthcare Groups Want CMS To Improve Reimbursement For Remote Patient Monitoring. mHealth Intelligence (6/11, Wicklund) reports that on Monday, nearly 50 healthcare organizations and vendors which “are lobbying the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to improve reimbursement opportunities

for remote patient monitoring” wrote to CMS Administrator Seema Verma. The groups want “CMS to modify and add Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes that would enable Medicare reimbursement of mobile health programs that collect patient-generated health data in the home.”

Trump Administration Immigration Policy Examined. Vox (6/11, Lind, 1.66M) features an article which explains the Trump Administration’s immigration policy. Vox examines how the government is separating families at the border, how many families are being separated, the policy behind the separations, and what happens to the children. The piece says that under federal law, “unaccompanied alien children are sent into the custody of the Office of Refugee Resettlement, which is part of the Department of Health and Human Services. The ORR is responsible for identifying and screening the nearest relative or family friend living in the US to whom the child can be released.”

Opinion: Trump Administration’s “Zero Tolerance” Policy Is “Cruel And Un-American.” Arizona Republic (6/11, 1.21M) columnist EJ Montini writes that the Trump Administration’s “zero tolerance” immigration policy “is cruel and un-American,” and discusses the many children being separated from their parents at the border. Montini says, “After the cruelty of the current policy got some public attention, Homeland Security is said to have established a hotline through which confused, despairing arrested parents might be able to locate their children. Perhaps the department could set up another hotline to help the administration locate its humanity.”

Opinion: Trump’s Immigration Policy Is “Completely Impractical.” Dyana Mason, Assistant Professor of Planning, Public Policy and Management at the University of Oregon, writes in the Conversation (US) (6/11, 98K) that many of the immigrant children being “deliberately” separated from their parents at the border “are under the age of 4 and are infants.” Mason adds, “When I researched this largely hidden aspect of immigration policy, I found little evidence that this patchwork system can absorb what promises to be an influx of thousands more children. And I have no doubt that forcibly separating kids from their families is completely impractical and bound to make a bad situation worse.”

Column: Redirecting Family Planning Funds Could Undercut STD Fight.

Michelle Andrews writes for the Washington Post (6/12, 15.68M) that a Trump Administration effort to shift family planning funding “could cripple other federal efforts to curb an explosion in sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), some public health officials fear.” The Department of Health and Human Services has proposed changes to Title X rules that, “if adopted in their current form, would require that Title X services be physically and financially separate from abortion services” and could push some medical practice to “choose not to prescribe birth control pills or other Food and Drug Administration-approved methods of contraception.”

Whistleblower Lawsuit Against Signature Healthcare Reveals \$244 Million Fraud.

The Tennessean (6/11, Kelman, 513K) reports on a whistleblower lawsuit filed against Signature Healthcare in which the provider was accused “of artificially inflating therapy time to maximize profits.” The lawsuit “prompted Signature to sign a \$30 million settlement to resolve the claims,” but federal prosecutors in that settlement “say the total fraud was much larger – about \$244 million.” The piece quotes HHS Office of Inspector General special agent Derrick L. Jackson as saying, “Signature was charged with illegally boosting profits by providing excessive amounts of therapy to patients whether they needed it or not. ... The decision to provide therapy should never be based on corporate financial considerations rather than a patient’s medical needs.”

HHS Seeking Public Comment About How To Set Up A Workgroup To Encourage Innovation, Investment In Healthcare.

In continuing coverage, ExecutiveGov (6/11, Crews) reports that HHS is seeking “comments on how to structure a workgroup to facilitate high-level discussions between HHS leaders and outside parties that support innovation or invest in the healthcare sector.” A notice posted in the Federal Register last week said HHS intends “to create a workgroup to explore technological approaches to address healthcare challenges and drive communication activities meant to encourage industry competition.”

Many American Toddlers Exceed Recommended Added Sugar Intake For Adults, Study Suggests.

USA Today (6/11, Carrig, 11.4M) reports a study by researchers at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suggests toddlers are consuming too much added sugar, with many actually exceeding adult recommendations. Investigators said that consuming foods with added sugar at such an early age can affect food preferences later in life. Lead study author Kirsten Herrick, a nutritional epidemiologist at the CDC, said, "Once kids start eating table food, they're often eating the same types of foods that Mom and Dad have in their diet, and other research has demonstrated that adults exceed recommendations for added sugar too."

Newsweek (6/11, 2.18M) reports the study suggests "99% of children aged between 19 to 23 months eat over seven teaspoons of added sugar each day on average." Also, results indicate that non-Hispanic black children aged between 12 to 23 months ate the most sugar, "while white children ate the least." Researchers analyzed "data from more than 800 infants and toddlers, aged between six and 23 months old, who took part in the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey between 2011 and 2014." The findings were presented "at Nutrition 2018, the annual meeting of the American Society for Nutrition held in Boston."

CDC Data Reveal Severity Of Latest Flu Season.

The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (6/11, Daly, 507K) reports new data from the CDC show that this past flu season killed 172 children – "one more than the high set in 2012-13." According to the CDC, "about 80 percent of this season's pediatric deaths were in children who had not received a flu shot," the piece says, adding that local health officials experienced high rates of flu cases, hospitalizations, and deaths.

The Scientist (6/11, Charuchandra, 153K) reports Daniel Jernigan, head of the CDC's flu division, said the flu season was "bad across the population" and that it "was happening to everyone, and it seemed to be happening everywhere."

Ebola Vaccines Could Signal Hope In Congo As Outbreak Continues.

The AP (6/11, Mednick, Neergaard) reports health workers tackling the Ebola crisis in the Democratic

Republic of Congo are offering a vaccine to impacted and at-risk populations, drawing international attention as onlookers wait "to see if a promising but still experimental vaccine might help stop this terrifying disease faster than traditional measures doctors have tried since Ebola was identified 40 years ago." However, even if it is effective, "there are serious hurdles" including logistical issues and gaining community trust. The article quotes CDC Ebola expert Dr. Pierre Rollin as saying, "People die every day and everywhere but nobody's interested. Suddenly because of Ebola people are interested and that makes you suspicious. ... Why would they trust us?"

STAT (6/11, Branswell, 27K) reports some experts "have watched with frustration the snail's pace progress of the efforts to study Ebola drugs during outbreaks," and many "are beginning to wonder if, with the advent of Ebola vaccines, the window for doing this kind of research may be closing for good." The piece says that within the scientific community, "There remain deeply divergent positions...about how to design outbreak trials," noting that "generating the human efficacy data that regulatory agencies like the Food and Drug Administration look for has been almost impossible."

Op-Ed: Trump's Reversal On Ebola Funding Cut Is Welcome News For Disease Prevention, Treatment Efforts.

K. Riva Levinson, president and CEO of KRL International LLC, writes in The Hill (6/11, 2.71M) that President Trump has deviated from his 2014 Twitter statements that America "cannot allow EBOLA infected people back" by electing to reinstate the \$252 million he had previously rescinded from the International Disaster Assistance account. She says this will help the international community address issues that actors learned from the 2014 Ebola outbreak, during which the National Institute of Health assisted in leading response efforts.

Laser Eye Surgery May Be Riskier Than Many People Think, Research Suggests.

The New York Times (6/11, Rabin, Subscription Publication, 19.33M) reports "roughly 9.5 million Americans have had laser eye surgery, lured by the promise of a quick fix ridding them of nettlesome glasses and contact lenses," but "serious questions remain about both the short- and long-term risks and the complications of this

increasingly common procedure.” The article highlights a trial conducted by the Food and Drug Administration, the National Eye Institute, and the Navy Refractive Surgery Center finding that “people who did not have dry eyes or visual aberrations before Lasik were at high risk for developing these problems.” Research suggests “28 percent of these participants developed dry eyes after surgery, and 45 percent reported a new visual aberration three months after surgery.” Dr. Malvina Eydelman, the study’s lead author and the director of the FDA’s Center for Devices and Radiological Health’s division of ophthalmic and ear, nose and throat devices, “said the researchers had concluded that the multimillion dollar trial was too small to produce meaningful results, and that the purpose of the study had shifted from determining how many patients have problems functioning to developing a questionnaire that might be used in future research.”

Anheuser-Busch Cancels Funding For NIH Alcohol Study.

The Scientist (6/11, Williams, 153K) reports Anheuser-Busch InBev announced on Friday that it no longer plans to assist in funding the National Institutes of Health’s “study on the effects of moderate alcohol consumption,” withdrawing its \$15 million funding commitment. The piece says scientists with the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse, which is leading the \$100 million study, “met with industry leaders and ‘gave talks strongly suggesting that the study’s results would endorse moderate drinking as healthy,’” according to the New York Times. The piece adds that NIH Director Francis Collins “announced that the agency was reviewing the process around funding for the trial and would determine whether it should proceed, and that enrollment had been suspended for the time being.”

House To Vote On 34 Opioid Bills This Week.

Congressional Quarterly (6/11, Raman, Subscription Publication) reports that on Tuesday the House “will begin a voting marathon on 34 bills designed to address the opioid epidemic,” and while most are unlikely contentious, “two bills have previously stirred controversy.” One bill set for a Friday vote “would create a new class on the controlled substances schedule for compounds related to fentanyl” and ease related prosecutions, but critics warn it could justify “broad bans on

drugs and hinder drug research.” National Institute on Drug Abuse Director Nora Volkow testified in April, “We need to have countermeasures, and the only way that we’re going to have countermeasures is [by] doing research.” CQ reports that the House will vote Thursday on a bill to help prevent the importation of synthetic opioids, but a rival bill in the Senate “would impose stricter requirements on” the US Postal Service and Customs and Border Protection “than the original House bill.”

The Washington Times (6/11, Howell, 460K) reports that notable bills include Jessie’s Law, which “orders the Health and Human Services Department to come up with best practices for hospitals and physicians to share the information” on consenting patient’s record of drug addiction before prescribing treatment.

Boston Globe Highlights Work Of Alzheimer’s Disease Researcher Focused On Preclinical Phase.

In an over 2,800 word article, the Boston Globe (6/11, Kendall, 945K) highlights the work of Reisa Sperling, “one of the world’s foremost researchers of Alzheimer’s disease,” who leads Brigham and Women’s Hospital’s Center for Alzheimer’s Research and Treatment. Sperling’s work focuses on the preclinical phase of Alzheimer’s disease with the aim of better understanding the early stages of the disease “before significant memory problems set in.” The article mentions that the National Institute on Aging has awarded a five-year \$70 million grant to Sperling and her colleagues to “build a research infrastructure called the Alzheimer’s Clinical Trials Consortium, a network of 35 testing sites at academic medical centers across the country.” Laurie Ryan, the leader of dementia research at the National Institute on Aging’s Division of Neuroscience, said, “This should be a game changer.”

Northwestern University Researcher Interviewed About Participating In NIH All Of Us Research Program.

The Chicago Tribune (6/11, Schencker, 2.37M) reports on an interview with Northwestern University research assistant professor Joyce Ho, who discussed the university’s role in the All of Us Research Program, noting that the Illinois Precision Medicine Consortium – of which the university is a member – “has received \$51 million from the National Institutes of Health to gather

data and samples from 93,000 volunteers over the next five years.” Ho examined precision medicine’s comprehensive approach to analyzing health, how the program will work, and its potential implications for the future of medical treatment.

Editorial: NCI Cancer Immunotherapy Study Has Applications For New Pittsburgh Therapy Center.

In an editorial, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (6/12, 507K) applauds the findings of a recent study led by National Cancer Institute researcher Steven A. Rosenberg which showed “success in using a type of immunotherapy to treat metastatic breast cancer in a Florida woman.” The Post-Gazette heralds the findings as the kind “of lifesaving [breakthrough] that could be possible at a new immunotherapy center planned for Pittsburgh” called the UPMC Immune Transplant and Therapy Center. The editorial says NCI researchers identified some of the woman’s “immune cells that seemed able to fight the cancer, multiplied them and infused them into her.” Rosenberg is quoted as saying, “All cancers have mutations, and that’s what we’re attacking with this immunotherapy. ... It is ironic that the very mutations that cause the cancer may prove to be the best targets to treat the cancer.”

House Panel Questions FDA’s Efforts To Track Illegal Opioids.

Reuters (6/11, Lynch) reports members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee sent a letter to Food and Drug Administrator Scott Gottlieb questioning whether the agency was “doing enough to stop the flow of illegal drugs” into the US as the nation battles the opioid epidemic. Republican Chairman Greg Walden (OR) and ranking Democrat Frank Pallone (NJ) wrote, “We have concerns about whether the FDA is appropriately devoting its resources to prioritize these efforts against unapproved opioids.” FDA spokeswoman Lyndsay Meyer confirmed the agency received the letter and planned to respond.

Experts Describe Federal Efforts To Prevent Foodborne Illnesses.

The Poughkeepsie (NY) Journal (6/11, Robinson, 111K) interviewed federal regulators and food-safety experts and surveyed public health data in an ongoing investigation of foodborne illness. Dr. Stephen Ostroff, FDA deputy commissioner for

foods, explained that with an outbreak, the task of sourcing breakouts is akin to an incomplete puzzle, saying, “the product that was consumed is no longer available to test and that makes it so much more difficult, even if we can trace it back through supply chain.” The article notes that the “FDA conducted about 156,000 food-safety inspections across the country between 2010 and 2017,” pointing out labeling gaps and that “insect, bird or vermin contamination was the most common critical deficiency.”

Federal Court Bars Mississippi Compounding Pharmacy From Making, Distributing Drugs.

The Jackson (MS) Clarion Ledger (6/11, 287K) reports that the Justice Department announced that a federal court has barred a compounding pharmacy, Delta Pharma Inc in Ridley, Mississippi, and two of its officers from distributing adulterated drugs under a consent decree. The defendants cannot manufacture, hold, or distribute drugs until the FDA notifies them in writing that “they appear to be in compliance with...specific remedial measures.” Last year, the FDA uncovered “numerous unsanitary conditions” during an inspection, prompting the legal case.

The Washington Times (6/11, Mordock, 460K) reports the FDA inspectors “noted numerous unsanitary practices including using tubes that may not have been sterilized to process drugs” and “did not take steps to ensure chemicals or particles from the tubes would contaminate the medicines, according to court documents.”

OPIOID CRISIS

Naloxone Use To Expand Among Police Departments, School Campuses In San Diego County.

The San Diego Union-Tribune (6/7, Hernandez, 664K) reports that “almost all police departments in” San Diego County “intend to supply their officers with naloxone, including the police forces for some universities and colleges,” amid “efforts to prevent opioid overdose deaths.” The article spotlights police departments in San Diego County that have “stocked up on naloxone in the past year,” and notes that “the drug is available to school resource officers” at some schools.

Former Sen. Bill Frist Highlights Cigna's Efforts To End Opioid Epidemic.

In an op-ed in The Tennessean (6/11, 513K), Bill Frist, a former Senate majority leader in Middle Tennessee, states that "private sector health insurers...have a role to play" in ending the opioid epidemic, highlighting Cigna as "a company that is demonstrating real leadership" in this effort. Frist states Cigna "recently announced that it achieved a 25% reduction in opioid use among its customers," and "the gains were achieved through collaboration with 1.1 million prescribing clinicians using an integrated analysis of pharmacy, medical, and mental health benefits to personalize the level of customer care." Frist says that it is also necessary to educate physicians on "non-addictive alternatives to manage pain," change "federal reimbursement rates that incentivize opioid prescribing over non-addictive alternatives," make it easier for people to access and afford addiction rehabilitation and mental health treatment, and facilitate treatment for people who have active addictions.

MENTAL ILLNESS

Word Choice May Be Indicative Of Depression, Studies Involving Linguistic Analysis Programs Suggest. The Wall Street Journal (6/11, Bernstein, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) reports that according to certain linguistic analysis programs, particular words may indicate someone is suffering from depression, based on findings from several studies published in psychological journals.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICING

Drugmaker Reboots Female Libido Drug At Half Price. Bloomberg News (6/11, Koons, 4.46M) reports Sprout Pharmaceuticals is relaunching its drug, Addyi, the "first-ever" FDA "approved drug for low libido in women," at a price point that is half of what it once was. Bloomberg points out that the price cut is "a rare step" in the industry, as "drugs typically go up in price on an annual basis, sometimes even twice a year." The "prescription carries a boxed warning" that requires women taking Addyi "to sign an

agreement acknowledging the risk of drinking while taking the drug."

Drug Pricing Advocates Condemn Democrats For Supporting Drug Industry.

STAT Plus (6/11, Mershon, Subscription Publication, 27K) reports 50 congressional Democrats endorsed a letter which a drug pricing advocacy group, Patients for Affordable Drugs, claims advances the pharmaceutical industry's "talking points." The advocacy group responded by letter Monday to House Speaker Paul Ryan, Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, and the 50 Democrats "condemning" their support for changing the "financial liability in the so-called 'donut hole,'" which is one of the industry's "chief lobbying priorities."

HEALTH CARE & INSURANCE REFORM

Dems, Who Once Shied Away From Healthcare, Are Hoping The Issue Will Propel Them To Victory In The Midterms. The Los Angeles Times (6/11, Barabak, 4.03M) reports that for years, Democrats have been shying away from the issue of healthcare "as though it were a heap of flaming rubble, which, politically speaking, it was." They lost control of Congress after the ACA was passed. But new polls indicate support for the ACA is "increasing as it becomes more imperiled, and the result has been a political sea change." The article says criticism of "GOP repeal efforts has emboldened Democrats, who think they can seize back the House, dramatically expand coverage and turn healthcare from an albatross to an advantage even in red states like Idaho, with the help of Republicans like Christy Perry."

Trump's Opposition To Parts Of New VA Healthcare Law May Endanger Its Implementation.

Joe Davidson writes in the Washington Post (6/11, 15.68M) "Power Post" blog that President Trump said he was "very happy" to sign the VA Mission Act, which seeks to improve veterans' healthcare. Since then, however, Trump has expressed dissatisfaction with portions of the law, and the Administration has "sent Congress a memo outlining objections

to proposed funding measures for the new program.” According to a top Democrat, these “objections could lead the Department of Veterans Affairs to ‘cannibalize itself.’” Davidson adds that the new law includes “sweeping, historic changes,” as Trump said, yet “how the job gets done is now open to question because of the signing statement Trump issued after his Rose Garden statement and the administration’s opposition to certain funding measures.”

Experts Caution Against Use Of Cheaper Outpatient Surgical Centers.

Dr. Dhruv Khullar and Austin Frakt, director of the Partnered Evidence-Based Policy Resource Center at the VA Boston Healthcare System, write in the New York Times (6/11, Subscription Publication, 19.33M) “The Upshot” blog that while “cost variation across care settings has led policymakers to consider paying more evenly for medical services regardless of where they’re delivered, and to shift care from expensive, high-intensity settings to cheaper, low-intensity ones,” a study of Medicare hospitalizations “found that almost all patients are more likely to survive at teaching hospitals, which tend to be more expensive.” Khullar and Frakt explain that “sometimes more is more.” Outpatient surgical centers do not always have the resources and staff needed to handle potential complications, and teaching hospitals have more advanced technologies, “subspecialty expertise, more clinicians involved in care, and greater availability of ancillary services.” Additionally, “research suggests that hospitals that spend more and do more may have better patient outcomes and lower mortality rates.”

Less Than 10% Of American Adults Get Recommended Preventive Healthcare, Study Indicates.

Reuters (6/11, Lehman) reports that according to a new study surveying nearly 2,800 American adults over age 35, “only 8 percent were getting all of the highly recommended preventive services with the greatest potential for improving health.” Reuters explains the survey included questions “about the receipt of 15 high-priority preventive services including blood pressure and cholesterol checks, screening for osteoporosis and several cancers, counseling on tobacco use, obesity, alcohol use and depression, plus vaccinations and aspirin

use.” The study was published online June 4 in Health Affairs.

Cisco, Other Large US Employers Trying To Manage Workers’ Health To Control Costs.

Reuters (6/11, Humer) reports that Cisco Systems, Inc. is among “a handful of large American employers who are getting more deeply involved in managing their workers’ health instead of looking to insurers to do it.” Last year, the company “began offering its employees a plan it negotiated directly with nearby Stanford Health medical system,” and a clinic is located at Cisco’s San Jose campus. Reuters adds that other large companies, such as Amazon.com Inc., JPMorgan Chase & Co., and Berkshire Hathaway Inc. are “closely watching” whether these efforts pay off.

Opinion: Supreme Court Leaning In Favor Of Pro-Life Cause.

Father Frank Pavone, national director of Priests for Life, writes in an analysis for the Washington Examiner (6/11, 340K) that two recent Supreme Court actions “indicate there are winds blowing in favor of the pro-life cause.” On May 29, the Court “declined to hear a case that sought to overturn an Arkansas law on chemical abortion” which “requires abortion providers to have contracts with physicians who have hospital admitting privileges.” On June 4, “the justices unanimously vacated an order of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit that had allowed a pregnant, undocumented minor in federal custody to have an abortion back in October.”

Midwest Has Fewest Abortion Clinics Per Woman Than Any Other Region, Study Indicates.

The Chicago Tribune (6/7, Lourgas, 2.37M) reports a new study published in the Journal of Medical Internet Research found that the Midwest has fewer abortion clinics than any other region in the United States based on the population of women of child-bearing age. According to the article, “Illinois – often referred to as an oasis for abortion care in the middle of the country – had an estimated 25 clinics, roughly one for every 120,135 women of reproductive age. In neighboring Wisconsin, by comparison, researchers found three facilities providing abortions, about one for every 423,590 women.”

Air Ambulance Companies Leave Patients With High Bills.

Bloomberg News

(6/11, Tozzi, 4.46M) reports on the growing size of the air ambulance fleet in the US and the increasing cost of using an air ambulance for medical emergencies. Air ambulance operators believe that because “US government health programs, including Medicare and Medicaid, don’t cover their expenses, they must ask others to pay more – and when health plans balk, patients get stuck with the tab.” As a result of “favorable treatment under federal law,” air-ambulance companies have “few restrictions on what they can charge for their services” and “states have no power to put in place their own curbs.” According to the article, Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT) has “introduced legislation that would roll back the special status of air-ambulance companies.” In addition, the FAA reauthorization bill passed by the House in April “would make medical services provided by air ambulances subject to state regulation.”

Commentary Considers Health Reform. Several outlets offer opinions on health reform.

In an editorial, the New York Times (6/11, Subscription Publication, 19.33M) argues that Democrats who hope “to make health care a centerpiece of midterm election campaigns just got a gift from the Trump administration,” as the Justice Department has “declined to defend the Affordable Care Act against a lawsuit filed by 20 Republican-led states,” and is “arguing for the repeal of enormously popular consumer protections, including coverage of pre-existing conditions.” The Times concludes, “Add this latest move to a growing list of similar efforts – eliminating the mandate tax penalty to begin with, allowing more short-term plans on the market – and it becomes clear where the administration’s priorities lie: not in helping more Americans get good health care, not even in supporting the will of the people, but in dismantling what some political opponents built, just for the sake of doing so.”

Catherine Rampell writes in her column in the Washington Post (6/11, 15.68M) that “if the GOP really thinks gutting protections for people with preexisting health conditions is good policy, they should pass a damn law.” Rampell points out that Republicans passed “literally dozens” of bills repealing the ACA while President Obama was in office, but then they “chickened out” last year “because they feared the blowback from voters.” Unable to take such action legislatively, the Trump

Administration is attempting to have the courts declare that protections for pre-existing conditions are unconstitutional, she argues. Rampell calls all of the Republican lawmakers who are “keeping their heads down” amid these moves “cowards.”

Jennifer Rubin writes in the Washington Post (6/11, 15.68M) “Right Turn” blog that after failing to repeal the ACA, President Trump and congressional Republicans “have decided to make it worse and help states get rid of it in the courts.” She argues, “As a policy matter, their approach will cause hardship to Americans, especially rural Trump voters; as a political matter, it defies logic.” Rubin adds that “everything the Trump administration has done with regard to the ACA is designed to raise prices. Republicans’ refusal to reverse these steps will surely be fodder for Democrats in the midterms.”

In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (6/11, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) analyzes the position Republican candidates find themselves in after failing to repeal the Affordable Care Act and with premiums expected to rise by double-digit percentage points in the run-up to the midterm elections. The Journal argues that despite finger-pointing by Democrats, the problems stem from the structure of the law itself, not the actions of the Trump Administration or the repeal of the individual mandate.

Michael Hiltzik writes in his Los Angeles Times (6/11, 4.03M) column that legal experts “who pay attention to the courthouse fortunes of the Affordable Care Act could tell something weird and bad was in the wind last Thursday, when three career attorneys at the Department of Justice abruptly withdrew from the team defending the law against a right-wing attack by Texas and 19 other red states.” Hiltzik asks, “Just how indefensible does an argument in a government brief have to be to cause all the career litigators...to withdraw?” He says while it may not be unusual for the government to refuse to defend a federal law, “it may be unprecedented for virtually the entire legal team representing the government in a case to withdraw en masse.”

Corey R. Lewandowski, who served as a campaign manager to Donald J. Trump, writes in an op-ed for The Hill (6/11, 2.71M) that President Trump “inherited a mess from his predecessors.” The biggest issue “is an entitlement time bomb that is soon to explode the national debt. Thankfully, President Trump is up for the task of entitlement reform.” Lewandowski adds that a

conservative group has recommended that Congress “raise Social Security and Medicare retirement ages to account for increased life expectancies and work capacities; transition to a flat, anti-poverty benefit for future beneficiaries so that the programs do not pay the highest benefits to those with the least need; and reduce the payroll tax to allow individuals to save more on their own for retirement and disability.”

The New York Daily News (6/8, 3.71M) says in an editorial after failing to get Congress to repeal the ACA, the Trump Administration now wants “a judge to undo the rest of the law through the courts.” The paper argues, “This is a brazen act of executive overreach. If it succeeds, it will endanger the coverage of thousands of sick Americans.”

Contributor Sally Pipes writes in a Forbes (6/11, 10.34M) piece that in 2017, “Canada’s single-payer healthcare system forced over 1 million patients to wait for necessary medical treatments.” This was a new record. Pipes argues that long, costly “delays are the norm in Canada and other single-payer nations, which ration care to keep costs down. Yet more and more Democratic leaders are pushing for a single-payer system – and more and more voters are clamoring for one.”

Charles Wallner, executive director of the Faith Community Alliance of Greater Cincinnati, writes in a Cincinnati Enquirer (6/11, 246K) op-ed that healthcare access through Medicaid “has been critical in helping Ohioans to enter the workforce and supporting them in their work.” The state “should be focused on strengthening residents’ connection to the preventive care and treatment that keeps them healthy and connected to the workforce. Instead, Ohio is pursuing a bad idea dressed up as health care reform.”

The Charleston (WV) Gazette-Mail (6/11) editorializes that in 1992, West Virginia formed a study group to look at allowing anyone to buy into its Public Employees Insurance Agency. The editorial suggests the state should return to the idea once again because it could provide an economical “single-payer health care for everyone.” The editorial argues that Republicans in Washington, DC, “aren’t interested in fixing this” and the state should address health coverage on its own.

HUMAN SERVICES NEWS

Experts: Don’t Let Social Security Solvency Fears Affect Claiming Decision.

CNBC (6/11, 4.81M) reports the “Social Security Board of Trustees said the trust funds that help support the system will run out of money in 2034,” but “experts say you should not let fear about the program’s future affect your eventual claiming decision.” They say they expect Congress to act to address that issue, and that retirees and near-retirees are unlikely to be affected. Additionally, if nothing is done, it won’t be good, but it result in payouts of 75 to 80 cents on the dollar, not a complete stop of payments.

Compromise Social Security Reforms Suggested. Robert Pozen, a senior lecturer at the MIT Sloan School of Management, in an op-ed in The Hill (6/11, 2.71M), predicts that, “given the intense hostility between the parties, they are not likely to agree on a compromise package of reforms before Social Security is on the brink of insolvency” in 2034. Still, Pozen suggests a “compromise package of reforms” that include “a 2 percent surcharge on all earnings above the maximum earnings subject to the payroll tax without raising benefits”; increasing the “normal retirement age to 68 around 2040,” indexing to increases in life expectancy; and “in calculating initial benefits at retirement, phase in a formula based on consumer price index growth over a worker’s career for the top third of earners, who have other retirement plans subsidized by taxes and corporations.”

Social Security Said To Face “Manageable Financing Shortfall.” Alicia H. Munnell writes in a column in MarketWatch (6/11, 1.49M), “The 2018 Social Security Trustees Report, released last week, shows that the program faces a 75-year deficit of 2.84 percent of taxable payrolls – virtually unchanged from last year’s projection of 2.83.” The deficits are partly due to “a worsening of economic assumptions” and “persistent increases in disability rolls.” Munnell concludes, “Social Security faces a manageable financing shortfall over the next 75 years, which should be addressed soon to share the burden more equitably across cohorts, to restore confidence in the nation’s major retirement program, and to give people time to adjust to needed changes.”

Johns Hopkins Lecturer Calls For Social Security Changes. Johns Hopkins University

School of Advanced International Studies senior lecturer Jason J. Fichtner, in an op-ed in CQ Roll Call (DC) (6/11, 117K), writes that the Social Security crisis “is already well upon us.” He warns, “To ensure that Social Security remains viable for the most vulnerable in our society, policymakers must soon address its severe and urgent financial challenges.” Fichtner calls for “bipartisan policy solutions,” recommending reforms suggested by “an expansive project housed at the Bipartisan Policy Center” that would “improve retirement security and personal savings.”

Ryan Making One Last Push To Overhaul TANF, SNAP Before He Retires From Congress. Congressional Quarterly (6/11, McPherson, Subscription Publication) reports House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) “has spent his 20-year congressional career primarily focused on two issues, taxes and poverty.” He “led a major rewrite of the tax code last year, but when he retires at the end of this term he won’t have many accomplishments to tout on poverty.” The article says “Ryan is spending his final year in office making one last anti-poverty push.” That is why the House is mulling “another overhaul to TANF [Temporary Assistance for Needy Families], as well as major changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), otherwise known as food stamps.”

Jefferson County Decision To Forfeit Head Start Funding Resulted In The Loss Of Family Advocate Jobs. The Louisville (KY) Courier-Journal (6/11, McLaren, 419K) reports that after the Jefferson County Public School board in Kentucky voted in late May to abandon its “beleaguered” Head Start program, half a dozen young women walked out of the meeting “out of work, no longer contracted by the district to support preschool students and their families,” even after Superintendent Marty Pollio said no jobs would be lost. The positions, known as family advocates, are required by the federal Head Start and Early Head Start programs, both of which serve children from low-income households. According to the article, “though the positions will exist if another organization scoops up the Head Start grant forfeited by JCPS, the women’s shock illustrated how many in Jefferson County were caught off-guard by the district’s decision to forfeit \$15 million in federal grant

money and a program that serves the community’s most vulnerable kids.”

CBP Commissioner Discusses Illegal Border Crossings During Interview.

The Los Angeles Times (6/11, Hennessy-Fiske, 4.03M) runs an interview with US Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Kevin McAleenan “during his visit to agents in Texas’ Rio Grande Valley, the epicenter of migration in recent years.” McAleenan tells the Times, “We’ve had consistent levels of apprehensions and inadmissible crossing since March. March and April were pretty much level at 50,000, both between apprehensions between ports of entry at that 36,000-37,000 level, and inadmissibles arriving at ports of entry between 12,000 and 13,000. So we remain day to day at those levels, which presents a number of challenges operationally.” McAleenan adds that “it’s too early to say what the increased ability to apply consequences for crossing the border illegally – what effect that will have on the traffic coming towards us.”

Louisiana Child Care Program Improved Controls, Auditor Says.

The AP (6/12) says a report issued Monday by Louisiana Legislative Auditor Daryl Purpera’s office “says the education department has enacted most of the recommendations made by auditors to track spending on the Child Care Assistance Program.” A 2012 audit of the program when it was managed by the Department of Children and Family Services identified \$46,000 in improper payments, but the education department, “which took control in 2015, trimmed improper payments to about \$24,000.”

FOOD & IMPORT SAFETY

Opinion: Labeling Requirements Drive Up Costs For Consumers.

Richard Berman, president of the public relations firm Berman and Co., writes for the Washington Times (6/11, 460K) that “the Coalition for Accurate Product Labels reports that in the first half of 2018, 11 states introduced close to three dozen proposals for warning labels or ingredient disclosures that went beyond national standards, and in many cases exceeded the bounds of known evidence.” Arguing that labels “have landed us in a regulatory muck of meaningless

warnings and unnecessary added costs to businesses, which are inevitably passed on to consumers,” Berman denounces San Francisco’s 2015 ordinance on labeling of sugar-sweetened beverages, noting that the FDA recognizes that “added sugars can be a part of a healthy dietary pattern.”

Tyson To Recall 3,120 Pounds Of Breaded Chicken Over Plastic Contamination. USA Today (6/11, Price, 11.4M) reports the “U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety and Inspection Service said Friday Tyson must recall 3,120 pounds of frozen breaded chicken tenders.” The company informed FSIS on Friday that “the breading of the frozen, uncooked chicken tenders may have been contaminated with foreign material in the form of blue and clear soft plastic,” the article says. FSIS classified the health risk as “low.”

Tennessee E. Coli Outbreak Leaves Six Children Hospitalized, Two In Serious Condition. The Knoxville (TN) News Sentinel (6/11, Gosnell, 252K) reports that East Tennessee Children’s Hospital (ETCH) is still treating six children following a recent E. coli outbreak associated with raw milk and contact with farm animals. “Two of the children are in the pediatric intensive care unit in serious condition, ETCH spokeswoman Erica Estep said Monday.” In a Monday update, the Knox County Health Department said, “While it would be rare, it’s possible that our community is experiencing two unrelated E. coli clusters at the same time,” adding, “The common link among the majority of those who are ill continues to be consumption of raw milk from a local cow-share dairy, French Broad Farm in Knox County.”

Arizona Family Awarded \$1.95 Million In Foster Farms Salmonella Case. In a 2,700-word feature, the Arizona Republic (6/11, White, 1.21M) reports Arizona couple Amanda and James Craten were awarded \$1.95 million in a lawsuit against Foster Farms over the near-death of toddler Noah, who “was hospitalized in 2013 with an abscess in his brain as a result of a salmonella infection” linked to chicken produced by the farm. The article chronicles the ordeal and describes the likely infection vector.

MEDICAID & CHIP

Ohio Decides Not To Implement Five-Percent Cut To Medicaid Reimbursement For Hospitals. The Cleveland Plain Dealer (6/11, Hancock, 1.03M) reports that Ohio “has canceled a planned \$1.1 billion...Medicaid cut to hospitals, saying an uptick in the economy and reshuffling money in the health care program has prevented the reduction.” Officials explained that this was due to the fact that “the number of people enrolled and the amount of money it has cost to cover their health care was lower than state projections.” The article says the state had been mulling a five-percent cut to Medicaid reimbursement for hospitals that “treat some 3 million program recipients who qualify based on their incomes, health conditions and disabilities, among other factors.”

Nursing Homes, Assisted-Living Facilities Suing Montana Over Medicaid Reimbursement Cuts. The AP (6/11, Volz) reports that on Monday, several nursing homes and assisted-living facilities in Montana “sued the state...to halt cuts to their reimbursements for providing care to Medicaid patients, cuts that have caused other Medicaid providers to curtail services or close altogether.” The article says that in January, the state Department of Public Health and Human Services reduced “the Medicaid provider reimbursement rates...as part of spending reductions across state government aimed at closing a budget shortfall.” The state wants to extend the 2.99-percent cut through the next fiscal year which begins in July, but the facilities “are asking a judge to block the cut, reinstate the 2017 rate and to reimburse them for the approximately \$3 million that they have lost since January because of the reduction.”

Montana Public Radio (6/11, Yamanaka) reports the Montana Health Care Association and “some of its members” filed the lawsuit. Executive director of the Montana Health Care Association Rose Hughes “said these cuts mean families are being denied services when they seek help from assisted living facilities.”

New Hampshire Substance Abuse, Mental Health Treatment Providers Worried About Proposed Cuts To Medicaid Reimbursement. The Concord

(NH) Monitor (6/11, DeWitt, 35K) reports, "Without some action, the state's newly approved Medicaid expansion program could saddle substance abuse and mental health treatment providers with lower payouts that could force cuts to staffing and services around January, when the law takes effect, they say." The article says New Hampshire legislators voted last month to extend Medicaid expansion for another five years. These providers are worried because of "a change that was intended as an improvement." The new deal stipulates that "recipients will receive care through managed care organizations – an insurance alternative designed to reduce health care costs." This means the current "daily rate of \$300 to \$500 per patient would drop to \$162.60 a day."

Michigan Governor Signs Bill To Repeal, Replace Tax That Funds Medicaid. The AP (6/11) reports Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder (R) on Monday "signed into law a plan to repeal and replace Michigan's tax on health insurance claims that is used to help fund Medicaid for low-income residents." The measures "require the state to seek a federal waiver to implement the tax change. The waiver is expected to be approved."

Fate Of Medicaid Expansion In Maine May Depend On Outcome Of November Election For Governor. Dylan Scott writes in a Vox (6/11, 1.66M) piece that a majority of Maine voters approved "Medicaid expansion last November, but it still hasn't happened yet. And it may just be their vote to choose the next governor that finally finishes the job." Scott says Gov. Paul LePage (R), who will soon leave office, has used every means "at his disposal to stop Maine from expanding Medicaid to 70,000 of Maine's poorest residents," despite voters' expressed wish to expand the program. Scott adds that advocates of Medicaid expansion "are pursuing legal action against LePage to force him into implementing it quickly," however, "if courts don't rule in their favor or if the fight drags out, the fate of Medicaid expansion is very much at stake in the fall election."

HEALTH & MEDICAL NEWS

Young Women Get Less Exercise Than Young Men, Study Suggests. The

NPR (6/11, Watson, 3.55M) "Shots" blog provides coverage of a study by researchers at Duke University suggesting that young women, particularly black women, get less exercise than young men, and that women's "exercise rates drop significantly after high school." Offering possible explanations why young women's exercise rates are lower than young men, one researcher not involved with the study said, "I think our society culturally sends different messages to young girls in terms of their bodies and how they spend their time... A lot of teen girl socialization is less focused on being physically active together, whether it's teen sports, or pick up games, or even going to the gym." In terms of why black women are affected disproportionately, one study author said, "We know that there is an unequal distribution of things like athletic fields [and] high schools that serve more minority populations are less resourced...I think that's just compounded when people leave the structured school environment." The findings were published in JAMA Pediatrics.

The Washington Times (6/11, Kelly, 460K) reports the study found that "45% of black females age 18 to 24 years reported no physical activity," and that "black females age 25 to 29 reported a little over a half hour of activity per day." Moreover, "White adolescent males were most likely to report any physical activity and younger age, being white, and having a higher income was associated with more time dedicated to exercise." The study authors wrote, "These data highlight opportunities for targeted physical activity programming and policy efforts to reduce the risk for chronic diseases and improve overall health throughout the lifespan."

Additional coverage is provided by The Guardian (UK) (6/11, Davis, 4.03M).

Research Explores Why People Get "Hangry." USA Today (6/11, Molina, 11.4M) reports that research published in Emotion suggests "environmental cues and a person's emotional awareness can decide whether someone becomes 'hangry.'"

Newsweek (6/11, Gander, 2.18M) reports that researchers came to this conclusion after conducting "two online experiments on 400 participants."

TIME (6/11, Sifferlin, 19.27M) reports that study co-author Kristen Lindquist said, "Despite the colloquial term 'hanger,' we found that this

effect was not specific to anger.” Lindquist added, “People in our studies were more likely to feel intense negativity in general when they were hungry and something bad happened – suggesting that feeling hungry can turn up the dial on lots of negative emotions such as anger, stress or disgust.” Also covering the story is the [NPR](#) (6/11, Chen, 3.55M) “Shots” blog.

Erectile Dysfunction May Be Linked To Increased Risk Of Heart Disease, Study Suggests. [TIME](#) (6/11, Park, 19.27M) reports that [research](#) published in *Circulation* suggests erectile dysfunction may be linked to a higher risk of heart disease. Investigators found that “among a group of 1,900 men aged 60 to 78, those with erectile dysfunction were twice as likely as men without the condition to have a heart attack, stroke, or die of a heart problem.”

The [New York Post](#) (6/11, Gollayan, 4.46M) reports that Michael Blaha, a co-author of the study, said, “The onset of ED should prompt men to seek comprehensive cardiovascular risk evaluation from a preventive cardiologist.”

[HealthDay](#) (6/11, Mozes, 10K) reports, “The link between impotence and heart disease appears to be ‘a two-way street,’ Blaha said, given that men who have had a heart attack appear to face a higher risk for ED.”

Healthy Lifestyle Associated With Improved Memory In Old Age, Study Indicates. [Xinhua News Agency \(CHN\)](#) (6/12, 11K) reports on a Finnish study showing that “a healthy lifestyle, including physical exercises, brain stimulants and healthy diet,” has the potential to “improve brain health and prevent late-age memory disorders.” The investigation, published Monday, examined 1,262 Finns over the age of 60 with an increased risk for memory disorders. “The control group had nearly 30 percent of the increased risk of deteriorating memory functions, while those who received intensive guidance had improved mental ability and physical performance,” Xinhua reports. The research was part of the Finnish Geriatric Intervention Study to Prevent Cognitive Impairment and Disability.

Millennial Men And Women Invest Differently, PNC Survey Reveals. In an exclusive, [USA Today](#) (6/12, Shell, 11.4M) reports on the insights highlighted in PNC Investments’

2018 Millennials & Investing Survey. “Nearly seven out of 10 (67%) female Millennials, for example, said their parents encouraged them to ‘save’ money, versus just 58% of males,” and similarly, “only 29% of females surveyed said their parents ‘showed (them) ways to grow wealth.’” By contrast, “37% of males said their financial education was focused on wealth-building, the survey found.” *USA Today* reports the men surveyed “demonstrated a more aggressive approach to risk taking than their female peers,” with 14 percent saying they “embrace risk,” double the percentage of women who said they welcomed risk.

Morningstar Analyst Supports State-Sponsored Auto-Enrollment For Retirement Savings. [MarketWatch](#) (6/11, Vlastelica, 1.49M) reports Aron Szapiro, director of policy research at Morningstar, says that government incentive programs for retirement investing “could dramatically increase the number of Americans who participate in retirement programs, at minimal cost to taxpayers,” and he “stressed that such incentives should be considered, noting the dire state of savings.” He adds that auto-enrollment in such plans “is the most powerful tool we’ve ever seen,” adding that “that this kind of regulation was far more effective in getting individuals to contribute than tax incentives.”

Tallahassee Targeting Multigenerational Families To Increase Retiree Draw. The [New York Times](#) (6/8, Olson, Subscription Publication, 19.33M) reported Tallahassee, Florida is not seeing the same growth as the rest of the state, and a “key part” of its efforts to “attract new residents” targets retirees with “some unusual tactics – including subsidizing a few people to move there.” A new campaign called “Choose Tallahassee” is recruiting “baby boomers who are hitting retirement age and looking to move someplace warmer and more affordable but who may not have thought of Tallahassee” compared to other destinations. Its campaigns are separately targeting boomers who “live elsewhere” and their children who live in Tallahassee, each promoting the benefits of having the other closer: for the boomers, the advantages of tech support and labor provided by nearby adult children; and for residents, the

benefits of parents in proximity, such as free childcare.

Ford Works On Self-Driving Delivery Service With Postmates. Fortune (6/11, Corbett, 3.91M) reports that Ford is working on developing a self-driving delivery service program with Postmates. Currently, the pilot program offers delivery options from more than 70 businesses in Miami and Miami Beach, “with the option of having the order delivered in a self-driving research vehicle.” The article explains that the vehicles used in the pilot are not autonomous, but instead “are manually driven cars with sensors that are being used to research the first and last mile of the delivery service.”

Experts Worried About Unproven Tesla Self-Driving Features. The Washington Post (6/11, Harwell, 15.68M) reports Tesla CEO Elon Musk tweeted that in August the company's cars will activate “full self-driving features,” although a company spokesman said that does not mean full autonomy. Meanwhile, “safety experts worried the grand promises of full self-driving capabilities could lull drivers into a false sense of security for technologies that are still largely unproven on the road.”

Uber-Like Flight Hailing Service Skyryde Starts Service In Los Angeles. The Washington Post (6/11, Kunkle, 15.68M) reports on the launch of Skyryde, an “Uber-like flight-hailing service,” in Los Angeles. Skyryde is using small planes that have “four to six seats and instrumentation that allows pilots to fly in everything but the most extreme weather.” Skyryde launched its services on April 20 and has been used by 16 passengers since its inception. According to Skyryde Founder Jerome Brenndon Adkins, “a typical Skyryde flight might take a passenger from the University of California at Los Angeles to Long Beach” at a fare of around \$300. Adkins “hopes that the same concepts pioneered by Uber...will lower Skyryde’s price from what might seem exorbitant now to something closer to \$100.” An FAA spokesman said that the agency is aware of the service and “the venture appears to have passed regulatory muster in several respects.”

Researchers Create Virtual Reality Platform To Help Children Cope With

Doctor’s Appointment Anxiety. U.S. News & World Report (6/11, 1.97M) contributor Jeremy Patterson from the Research Institute at Nationwide Children’s Hospital discusses how virtual reality can help children deal with nervousness or anxiety during a doctor’s appointment. Patterson explains that researchers at the Institute have created a “first-of-its-kind VR platform called Voxel Bay,” which “provides patients with an immersive environment of penguins, pirates and dragons during infusions and other procedures.” Additionally, the system’s headsets are “built for purpose and are a fun part of the experience.” VR games are installed “onto smartphones, so they’re wireless, and nurses or families can follow the progress of the games by watching a tablet and adjust if the patient needs more distraction.”

Feeding Children Honey After Swallowing A Small Battery Can Prevent Serious Injury, Study Suggests. The Philadelphia Inquirer (6/11, Giordano, 1.07M) reports “a team of pediatric ear, nose, and throat specialists from the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and Nationwide Children’s Hospital has discovered that giving a child honey to eat after he or she has swallowed a small battery can prevent serious injury and possibly even death.” Study authors explained, “Our recommendation would be for parents and caregivers to give honey at regular intervals before a child is able to reach a hospital, while clinicians in a hospital can use sucralfate before removing the battery.” The findings, which “will be incorporated into the National Capital Poison Center’s guidelines for management of button battery ingestions,” were published in The Laryngoscope.

Science Blog (6/11) also reports.

Physician Advises Parents To Keep Kids Safe While Swimming. Dr. Perri Klass writes for the New York Times (6/11, Subscription Publication, 19.33M) that “even if kids have had swim lessons, parents must still supervise them in the water.” Dr. Klass quotes Dr. Benjamin Hoffman, who is the chairman of the American Academy of Pediatrics Council on Injury, Violence, and Poison Prevention, as saying, “Infant swim is not a drowning prevention exercise,” because children are developing water competence in swimming lessons. Dr. Klass notes

that until 2010 the AAP advised against swimming lessons for children under the age of four due to concerns that “parents whose young children take swimming lessons will be lulled into a false sense of security,” but after a 2009 study by researchers at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the AAP recognized “that swimming lessons for young children were not a risk and might be protective – as long as parents continued to be protective as well.”

Using Prophylactic NSAIDs Before And After Cataract Surgery May Reduce Development Of Cystoid Macular Edema In Diabetic Patients, Study Suggests.

MD Magazine (6/11, DiSanto) reports researchers found “that using prophylactic non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) pre- and post-cataract surgery may help reduce the severity and frequency of the development of cystoid macular edema (CME) in the eyes of diabetic patients.” The findings were “published in the International Journal of Ophthalmology.”

Young Surgeons Face High Debt, Financial Instability, Study Suggests.

Reuters (6/11, Crist) says a new study published in the American College of Surgeons found that “young surgeons often face debt burdens that make it difficult for them to start their careers and pay off their loans.” According to the study, “more than one in three, or 38 percent, reported more than \$200,000 in educational debt. When non-student loan debt, mortgage liability, vehicle debt, and credit card debt were factored in, the average trainee owed more than \$220,000.” Overall, the researchers found that 82 percent of respondents had moderate- or high-risk debt-to-asset ratios.

Opinion: Retail Health Clinics Set The Stage For Today’s Mega-Mergers.

Hal Rosenbluth and Peter Miller, co-founders of Take Care Health Systems, write in STAT (6/11, 27K) about retail health clinics and say that “the media spotlight is on some of health care’s giants as they jockey for position around the themes that retail clinics set in motion.” The duo argue that any major mega-merger must focus on aligning incentives, educating consumers on healthcare, and accommodate the social determinants of health.

Tick Paralysis Strikes Five-Year-Old In Mississippi.

The Washington Post (6/11, Wootson, 15.68M) reports on a five-year-old girl in Mississippi who woke up one morning unable to walk. Her mother found a tick on her head and took her to a hospital where she was diagnosed with tick paralysis, a condition that is caused by female ticks on the verge of laying eggs. After the tick eats a blood meal and is engorged, it secretes a neurotoxin into the host. According to the Post, “paralysis begins in the legs, then spreads to the upper extremities. It can manifest as fatigue, numbness and an increasing inability to move,” and in the later stages, if no action is taken, “the toxin ultimately makes it impossible for a person to breathe, resulting in respiratory failure.” The article says the child quickly recovered after the tick was removed.

Red Cross Blood Drive Campaign Sees Major Brands Dropping A, B, and O From Their Names.

NBC News (6/11, Fox, 5.76M) reports on its website that major brands are dropping the letters A, B, and O in their logos to support the Red Cross’s new blood drive campaign starting Monday. “Without A, B and O, we can’t save anybody,” the Red Cross says, adding, “Each year, fewer and fewer people are donating blood.” According to the article, “only about 38 percent of the population is even eligible to give blood, and only about 10 percent of those people – that’s 3 percent of the population – give blood yearly.”

KKR To Buy Envision Healthcare For \$5.57 Billion.

In continuing coverage, Bloomberg News (6/11, Mittelman, 4.46M) reports that KKR & Co. will buy Envision Healthcare Corp. for \$46 a share “after an almost yearlong sale process for the medical company.” The article says, “The all-cash deal values Envision at \$5.57 billion. Including debt, the acquisition is valued at \$9.9 billion.”

Also reporting are the Associated Press (6/11) and Bloomberg View (6/11, Sutherland, 4.46M).

Surgeons Use 3D-Printed Organs To Determine Best Way To Operate.

The Washington Post (6/8, Blakemore, 15.68M) reports that surgeons are using 3D-printed organs to figure out the best way to operate on patients. Using CT scans that are manipulated via special

software, a team of engineers creates a model that replicates the organ and use computer models predict how blood flow would respond to each patient's unique anatomy. The process helps physicians decide how best to approach the surgery, according to the Post.

Legacy Of Racism Hurting Health Of African Americans. In a 7,543-word feature in The Atlantic (6/11, 3.08M), Olga Khazan writes about "how African Americans became stuck in profoundly unhealthy neighborhoods, and...how the legacy of racism can literally take years off their lives." In the US, "black people suffer disproportionately from some of the most devastating health problems," but, excepting a few specific ailments, scientists believe the underlying causes aren't genetic but "social and environmental forces that affect African Americans more than most other groups." Khazan adds, "America's racist and segregationist history continues to harm black people in the most intimate of ways – seeping into their lungs, their blood, even their DNA."

South Carolina Primary Vote To Gauge "Temperature" Of Electorate. The Greenville (SC) News (6/11, Wilkinson, 112K) reports that a nonbinding ballot initiative on the legalization of medical marijuana will be included on the Democratic primary ballot in South Carolina on Tuesday. Bill Nettles, a former US attorney for South Carolina, said the ballot "allows the party to take the temperature of the electorate," on the issue.

Opinion: Physician-Assisted Suicide "Can Never Be Medical Care." Matt Vallière, executive director of the Patients' Rights Action Fund, writes in The Hill (6/11, 2.71M) about physician-assisted suicide, and says that "suicide can never be medical care." Vallière argues, "As the medical community continues to point out its dangers, Congress should summarily reject assisted suicide public policy by passing H.Con. Res.80 – a truly bipartisan bill 'expressing the sense of the Congress that assisted suicide puts everyone, including those most vulnerable, at risk of deadly harm and undermines the integrity of the health care system.'"

American Medical Association Votes To Keep Reviewing Its Guidance On

Physician-Assisted Suicide. The Washington Post (6/11, Bever, 15.68M) reports that delegates at the American Medical Association's annual meeting in Chicago voted Monday to continue reviewing its guidance on physician-assisted suicide. The AMA's House of Delegates "voted by a margin of 56 to 44 percent to have the AMA's Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs keep studying the current guidance," according to the article.

Modern Healthcare (6/11, Johnson, Subscription Publication, 239K) also covers the story.

Cherokee Hospital Testing 186 Patients For HIV, Hepatitis After Nurse Reused Syringes. The Tulsa (OK) World (6/11, Overall, 358K) reports that W.W. Hastings Hospital in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, a Cherokee Nation facility, is testing 186 patients for HIV and hepatitis after a nurse allegedly reused syringes to administer medications. According to the article, "the nurse violated protocols by using the same vial of medication and syringe to inject more than one intravenous bag." As of Monday, 64 patients had been screened, and none had tested positive. Hospital CEO Brian Hail said, "Patients were never directly in contact with any needle. Medication was administered into an IV bag or tubing. The likelihood of blood-borne pathogens traveling up the lines into an IV bag or IV tubing to cause cross contamination from using the same syringe is extremely remote."

Louisiana Regulators Prepare For Expanded Medical Marijuana Program. The Baton Rouge (LA) Advocate (6/11, Thompson, 141K) reports that "regulators crafting Louisiana's medical marijuana policies affecting physicians expressed concern Monday that key rules still need to be revised, while the growing number of state-approved treatable conditions will likely cause the state's nascent program to grow significantly." According to the article, "questions linger about how the drug will be administered, such as determining the appropriate dosage for a 30-day supply, and whether to lift an existing cap on the number of patients that doctors can recommend to be treated using medical marijuana."

Physician Offers Advice About Genetic Screening For Pregnant

Women. U.S. News & World Report (6/8, 1.97M) contributor Elaine K. Howley offered guidance on genetic screening for pregnant women. Discussing the elevated risks associated with diagnostic tests such as amniocentesis and CVS, Howley quoted Dr. Deanna Mascho-Cawley, an OB-GYN at Geisinger in Danville, Pennsylvania, as saying, "According to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, any patient can be offered or should be offered that diagnostic testing as well. We just tailor the counseling based off the patient's risk factors and their desires because of those additional risks that are associated with those procedures."

Guided Nanospears Can Administer Genetic Therapies Targeting Cancer, Researchers Say. The Daily Beast (6/12, Schultz, 1.69M) reports a recent study in the journal American Chemical Society Nano "describes a method of creating nanospears 5,000 times thinner than human hair that successfully targeted, pierced, and entered a cancer cell within a lab dish." The authors explained in an email, "The capability to guide the nanospears magnetically eliminates the need for potentially harmful chemical propellants that have been used in prior examples of nanorobotic delivery," adding, "A key feature of the nanospears is that we can guide them individually or in groups" to deliver some genetic therapies.

US Adults With Hypertension Incur Nearly \$2,000 More In Annual Healthcare Costs, Study Indicates. Reuters (6/11, Wiener) reports that research indicates "each year, U.S. adults with high blood pressure incur almost \$2,000 more in annual healthcare costs." The data indicated that "nationally, healthcare for adults with high blood pressure...costs an extra \$131 billion per year." The findings were published in the Journal of the American Heart Association. Reuters points out that "last year, the American Heart Association, the American College of Cardiology and several other health organizations lowered the threshold for high blood pressure in adults to 130/80 millimeters of mercury."

Loneliness May Cause Premature Death By Damaging Heart, Research Suggests. Newsweek (6/11, Spear, 2.18M)

reports that research suggests "loneliness may actually cause premature death by damaging the heart." The study "suggested that feeling loneliness may double a person's risk of dying of cardiovascular disease." The findings were presented at the European Society of Cardiology's annual nursing conference.

CRISPR-Cas9 May Increase Cancer Risk In Cells, Research Suggests. Reuters (6/11, Kelland) reports that two studies suggests CRISPR-Cas9, "a gene-editing technology that is being explored by scientists worldwide as a way of removing and replacing gene defects might inadvertently increase cancer risk in cells."

STAT (6/11, Begley, 27K) reports that "In the studies...scientists found that cells whose genomes are successfully edited by CRISPR-Cas9 have the potential to seed tumors inside a patient," which "could make some CRISPR'd cells ticking time bombs, according to" the investigators. To view the studies, click [here](#) and [here](#).

Congressional Action On Marijuana Could Potentially Lead To Studies On Benefits Of Medical Marijuana For Cancer Patients. Fox News (6/11, Carlton, 16.38M) reports, "President Trump recently told reporters he will likely support a congressional effort to end the federal ban on marijuana, which could finally help cut through the red tape blocking scientists from conducting large-scale trials on the benefits of medical marijuana in cancer patients." Fox News adds, "According to new research published in the Journal of Clinical Oncology, less than 30 percent of oncologists surveyed felt knowledgeable enough about medical marijuana to make recommendations." Dr. Andrew Epstein, an ASCO patient care expert, told Fox News, "The amount of information we have is still relatively nascent and evolving and therefore its upon us as a community to re-up our skills in knowing about this aspect of supportive oncology."

Genetic Test For Prostate Cancer Can Identify Individuals Who Have A Higher Risk Of Developing The Disease, Researchers Say. Forbes (6/11, Forster, 10.34M) contributor Victoria Forster writes that research published in Nature Genetics indicates "a new DNA 'spit test' for prostate

cancer can identify men who have an increased risk of developing the disease.” The research was partially funded by the National Cancer Institute. Forster points out that research recently presented at the American Society of Clinical Oncology meeting “showed that only a minority of men with prostate cancer respond to immunotherapy, likely those men whose cancers have defects in genes involved in repairing DNA.”

HealthDay (6/11, Preidt, 10K) reports, “According to the new study, the scientists identified 63 new genetic variants associated with increased risk of prostate cancer, and combined them with more than 100 previously identified variants to create the new test.” The new “test identifies the 1 percent of men who are at highest risk for prostate cancer.”

Also covering the story are BBC News Online (UK) (6/11, 1.57M) and The Guardian (UK) (6/11, Sample, 4.03M).

Rhode Island Nursing Homes Decry State Budget Cut That Would Lead To Layoffs, Closures.

The AP (6/11, McGuinness) reports nursing homes in Rhode Island denounced legislators’ most recent budget proposal because it would cut their funding and “likely lead to facility closures and layoffs.” Rhode Island Health Care Association president Virginia Burke, “Closures. The impact will be closures. ... Facilities would not be able to keep operating.” She also indicated that “the 8.5 percent cut would mean a loss of close to \$30 million for the facilities,” which “are already financially strapped.” Burke also “said nursing homes have not seen any money from the judgment as the state continues its appeal process,” and that the cut “would take effect in three weeks.”

THCA Sounds Alarm Over Texas’ LTC Staffing Crisis.

The Midland (TX) Reporter-Telegram (6/12, McEwen, 42K) reports Texas providers “are ringing alarm bells” about the staffing crisis impacting nursing homes throughout the state. According to the Texas Health Care Association, “the 97 percent turnover rate for certified nurse aides and the 90 percent turnover rate for registered nurses and licensed vocational nurses are affecting nursing homes statewide.” THCA president and CEO Kevin Warren explained, “It’s a huge concern when you look at the fact we’re seeing direct care staff...have a turnover rate of 90 to 97 percent. ... It’s a

significant problem that we need to work on and come together to address.” He also pointed out that “staffing has always been a challenge, but he has not seen such high turnover rates in the more than 20 years he’s worked in the industry.” The article lists recommendations from Warren on improving staffing levels.

Despite Prevention Efforts, South Dakota’s STD Rates Rising.

The Sioux Falls (SD) Argus Leader (6/11, Pfankuch, 175K) reports prevention efforts to combat sexually transmitted diseases in South Dakota “have not reversed a trend of increasing STD rates in rural and urban regions of the state” as cases reach “near-historic infection rates.” Health officials worry “that if infection rates continue to rise...a health crisis could result among sexually active South Dakotans who engage in high-risk behaviors.” Their concerns have been compounded by the emergence of “a new antibiotic-resistant form of gonorrhea and cases of congenital syphilis.”

Pennsylvania, Nation Losing Fight Against Lyme Disease.

The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review (6/11, Erdley, 334K) reports on an article in Scientific American indicating that “the battle against Lyme diseases isn’t progressing.” The piece says Lyme has been particularly bad in Pennsylvania, which “led the country” for the past six years “with the most new cases of Lyme – more than 12,000 residents contracted the disease in 2016.” The article notes that the pressure to develop a vaccine is growing “ever more pressing as the tick” responsible for its spread “expands its reach across the country.”

Op-Ed: Rising Number Of Lyme Disease Infections Punctuates Need For Prevention Efforts.

Mary Beth Pfeiffer, author of “Lyme: The First Epidemic of Climate Change,” writes for Scientific American (6/11, 3.12M) that “little has been done to curb the spread of ticks or to control the harm inflicted by the Lyme bacterium,” which she argues is “the product of a false image of Lyme disease, embraced by health officials and repeated in reviews of the medical literature, as an illness that is easy to diagnose and readily treatable.” She argues that “we must recognize that the power of ticks has been underestimated and our response inadequate.”

Epidemiologists Predict California Will See Another Cycle Of Pertussis Cases.

The Orange County (CA) Register (6/11, Walker, 635K) reports on the “cyclical nature” of pertussis, noting that California four years ago “was in the grips of an outbreak” and that “outbreaks tend to occur every three to five years.” Epidemiologists have issued warnings that the Southern California region should anticipate “another surge right about now.” While “there are no signs as yet of an epidemic, statewide or locally,” the piece urges parents to take precautions.

Cost Of Kansas City’s Measles Outbreaks Exceeded \$170,000.

The Kansas City (MO) Star (6/11, Marso, 636K) reports an analysis led by health officials shows “that more than \$170,000 in taxpayer resources was spent” in efforts to combat two measles outbreaks in Kansas City that resulted in “35 total cases – 22 in Kansas and 13 in Missouri.” Some of the funding came from federal sources, while “some of it came out of redirected state and local resources and none of it includes other costs that are difficult or even impossible to quantify.” The article goes on to examine the cost breakdown of treatment and prevention efforts during the outbreaks.

Stryker Reportedly Eyeing Boston Scientific For Takeover.

The Wall Street Journal (6/11, Mattioli, Dummett, Cimilluca, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) reports Stryker Corp. recently initiated an attempt to take over competitor Boston Scientific Corp., which would form a medical device behemoth worth more than \$110 billion, according to sources. The Journal says it is unknown whether Boston Scientific is amenable toward the offer, which comes amid a jolt of activity in the healthcare sector as companies address industry and regulatory shifts.

Reuters (6/11, Banerjee, Berkrot) reports the combination “would give Stryker a strong position in stroke preventing interventional cardiology.” If a deal were to materialize, “Stryker would get Boston Scientific’s line of stents, defibrillators and its Watchman atrial device to prevent migration of blood clots.”

The Minneapolis Star Tribune (6/11, Carlson, 1.16M) reports Boston Scientific shares “shot up nearly 10 percent in midday trading Monday” on

the news. The companies have not commented on the alleged deal.

Juvenescence Takes Stake In Company Generating Cell-Based Therapies For Age-Related Diseases.

MedCity News (6/11, DeArment) reports UK-based Juvenescence Limited, which develops “therapies to slow or reverse the effects of aging,” announced Monday it has raised \$50 million in a Series A funding round. The company also “made a \$5 million equity investment in AgeX Therapeutics, a subsidiary of publicly traded company BioTime focused on developing cell-based therapies for age-related degenerative diseases.” AgeX is noted as having previously raised \$10.8 million last year, including “a \$386,000 grant from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, part of the National Institutes of Health.”

Experts Push For “Medicalized Approach” To Suicide Prevention.

Modern Healthcare (6/11, Johnson, Subscription Publication, 239K) reports that the recent suicide deaths of designer Kate Spade and TV host Anthony Bourdain “highlight what has become a growing public health issue, as rates of suicide throughout the country have increased sharply over the past two decades.” Some experts are calling for a “more medicalized approach toward treating anxiety and depression,” much like “early screening for conditions such as diabetes and breast cancer has led to better outcomes and survival rates.” The article explains that “such an approach would require changes in the way much of the medical community views mental health disorders” and would require eliminating “lingering stigmas” among both providers and patients, such as “knowing the signs of a potential disorder or when to refer patients to a behavioral healthcare specialist for help.”

Opinion: Ending The Stigma Is The Key To Suicide Prevention.

Petula Dvorak writes in the Washington Post (6/11, 15.68M) that even though 123 people die of suicide every day, “we still don’t want to talk about it.” Dvorak argues, “The silence, the stigma and the fear keep us from having real conversations – and taking action – when it comes to such a determined killer” that is the tenth leading cause of death in the US and the second highest among

teens. The piece concludes that “the key” to suicide prevention is: “Helping others. Breaking the silence. Ending the stigma.”

Oral Migraine Drug Succeeds In Study, Manufacturer Says. Reuters (6/11, Banerjee) reports Allergan Plc announced Monday that its oral migraine drug, atogepant, met its “main goal across all doses in a study, with a statistically significant reduction in monthly headache days in patients with episodic migraine.” The results come after the FDA approved Amgen’s calcitonin gene-related peptide (CGRP) treatment last month.

Layoffs A Symptom Of A Deeper Problem With IBM’s Watson Health, Former Employees Say. STAT Plus (6/11, Ross, Swetlitz, Subscription Publication, 27K) reports that IBM’s Watson Health project is “grappling with a deeper problem – that the company has struggled to turn its new trove of patient data into workable products, and that instead of attracting a wave of new hospital clients, Watson Health is starting to shed business,” according to former IBM employees who were recently laid off by the company. The article discusses how IBM has had reported problems with integrating its three acquisitions which brought in “vast stores of patient health data.”

Children Exposed To Cigarette Smoke Have Higher Risk Of Hearing Loss, Research Indicates. Newsweek (6/11, Dovey, 2.18M) reports researchers from Japan have found that “exposure to smoking, both in utero and in the first few months of a child’s life, is associated with higher prevalence of hearing impairment,” according to a study published in Paediatric and Perinatal Epidemiology. Among the findings, “children exposed to only their mothers’ past smoking had a 26 percent increased risk of hearing impairment,” and those exposed to only “secondhand smoke at four months had a 30 percent increased risk.” In addition, “those whose mothers smoked during their pregnancy had a 68 percent increased risk of hearing impairment.”

Studies Link Abdominal Fat To Increased Rates Of Coronary Heart Disease, Increased Risk For Cancer,

And Risk Of Developing Dementia Decades Later. In the New York Times (6/11, Subscription Publication, 19.33M) “Personal Health” column, Jane E. Brody writes that if a person’s “waist measures 35 or more inches for women or 40 or more inches for men, chances are you’re harboring a potentially dangerous amount of abdominal fat.” Brody goes on to detail studies linking visceral fat with increased rates of coronary heart disease, an increased risk for cancer, and even the “risk of developing dementia decades later.”

Experts Release Blueprint For Improving End-Of-Life Care. NJ Spotlight (6/12, Stainton) reports on recommendations released Monday by the nonprofit New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute as “part of a strategic plan for end-of-life care.” Targeted investments for improving end of life carer include “developing a statewide database to keep residents’ requests and wishes readily accessible” and offering “higher reimbursements for treatment consultations and palliative care.” The 15-page report “outlines ways in which state officials can work with hospitals, medical schools, local communities, and other groups to provide more appropriate...medical treatments and support services to patients nearing the end.”

GLOBAL HEALTH

Rollout Of HIV Prevention Drug Tied To Reduction In Condom Use Among Men Who Have Sex With Men In Australia, Study Suggests. The New York Times (6/11, Baumgaertner, Subscription Publication, 19.33M) reports researchers found that “the rollout of a drug that prevents HIV infection was followed by a reduction in condom use among gay and bisexual men in Australia.” The findings were published in Lancet HIV.

HIV/AIDS Epidemic Getting Worse In Russia. In an over 2,800 word article, Science Magazine (6/11, Cohen, 441K) reports that the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Russia is getting worse. The article highlights some of the contributing factors to the problem, including some of the barriers that many patients with HIV face in receiving treatment in Russia.

Rift Valley Fever Kills Five In Kenya, Official Says.

Reuters (6/11, Mureithi) says Kenya has reported the deaths of five people in the past week due to the reemergence of Rift Valley Fever disease, marking “the first reports of the disease since an outbreak killed more than 200 people a decade ago.” Abdihakim Billow, a health official of the area “where the deaths were reported, said two people died in hospital while the other three died at home,” adding that “another two people thought to be ill from the disease had been hospitalized.”

British Authorities Seize Mother’s Cannabis-Based Medication For Son With Epilepsy, Prompting Stand-Off.

Reuters (6/11, Shirbon) reports that the mother of a boy with epilepsy who journeyed to Canada “to buy cannabis-based medication she says is keeping her son alive” had her supplies confiscated by British customs officials upon her return on Monday. The mother says that without the cannabis oil, her 12-year-old son has up to 100 seizures a day, each of which is potentially fatal. According to Reuters, “the case has ignited a debate about the medicinal use of cannabis, a drug which is illegal in Britain and which the British authorities do not recognize as having any medicinal benefits.”

Opinion: Chinese Communist Leaders Must Be Held Accountable For Human Rights Violations.

Chen Guangcheng, author of “The Barefoot Lawyer: A Blind Man’s Fight for Justice and Freedom in China,” writes in the Washington Post (6/11, 15.68M) that the Chinese Communist Party “is considering abandoning one of its longest-running and most abusive practices: its reproduction planning policy, commonly known as the one-child policy,” but says that returning reproductive rights to the people “does not exempt the Communist Party from responsibility for decades of trauma and murder committed under the euphemistic rubric of population planning.” Guangcheng “urges the American government to use the tools at its disposal – such as the Global Magnitsky Act – to hold Communist Party leaders accountable and to take a stand for human rights for all.”

National Register In Australia Could Curb Financial Abuse Of Elders.

The Sydney (AUS) Morning Herald (6/8, Collett, 18K)

reports older Australians who are “socially isolated and reliant on others for their care” are “particularly vulnerable to financial abuse.” Last week, “the Australian Banking Association, the Council of the Ageing (COTA Australia) and National Seniors called on the nation’s attorneys-general to agree to standardise the reporting systems for suspected cases of financial abuse of elders,” the article says, adding that such a system “could quickly verify the authority of a power of attorney when they present themselves as acting on behalf of a customer.”

NATIONAL NEWS

Trump, Kim Pledge “Complete Denuclearization” After Historic Summit.

At Tuesday’s historic summit in Singapore, President Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un signed a joint statement committing to the “complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.” Details of the agreement were still emerging early Tuesday morning, but initial media reports are critical of its lack of specifics. Reuters (6/12, Kim), for example, says the statement “gave few details,” the Wall Street Journal (6/12, Bender, Gordon, Cheng, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) refers to a lack of specific commitments, and Bloomberg News (6/12, Wayne, Sink, 4.46M) says the two leaders “laid out goals...without specifying what immediate steps either side would take.” CNN (6/11, Liptak, 82.6M) reports “there was no mentioning the previous US aim of ‘complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization.’ And Kim’s commitments did not appear to go beyond what he already pledged to do in April when he met South Korean President Moon Jae-in.”

According to the AP (6/12, Miller, Lucey, Lederman, Klug), the President pledged unspecified “security guarantees” to the North. The two leaders “coupled the summit agreement with lofty promises” by Trump to handle “a very dangerous problem” and Kim’s prediction for “major change.” The AP says the document “largely amounted to an agreement to continue discussions,” and “did not include an agreement to take steps toward ending the technical state of warfare between the US and North Korea.”

The New York Times (6/12, Landler, Subscription Publication, 19.33M) reports Trump concluded the meeting saying that denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula would

begin “very quickly.” In the statement, which Trump called “comprehensive,” the President “committed to provide security guarantees” to North Korea, and Kim “reaffirmed his firm and unwavering commitment to complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.” According to the Times, the statement “was short on details,” but Trump told reporters, “We’re starting that process very quickly – very, very quickly – absolutely,” referring to denuclearization. The statement said the two nations would hold “follow-on negotiations” led by Secretary of State Pompeo and a high-level North Korean official “at the earliest possible date, to implement the outcomes” of the summit meeting.

The AP (6/12) reports that during a “free-wheeling press conference before returning to the US,” Trump told reporters he thinks “we’ll probably need another summit” — or at least a second meeting — with Kim. He also insisted that Kim “understands what the US has been pushing for in the talks.” Said Trump, “I think he’s going to do these things.”

During Tuesday’s meeting, the Washington Post (6/12, Nakamura, Rucker, Fifield, Gearan, 15.68M) reports, Trump said he had “developed a very special bond” with Kim, but the document “is an outline, with no specifics or deadlines and leaves the details on key issues such as how the United States would verify that North Korea had given up its nuclear program for future talks.” Still, Trump “cast his meetings with Kim in the most positive light.” The President told reporters, “We are very proud of what took place today. I think our whole relationship with North Korea and the Korean Peninsula is going to be a very much different situation than it has in the past. We both want to do something, we both are going to do something. We have developed a very special bond.”

USA Today (6/12, Jackson, 11.4M) likewise says Trump “claimed success,” saying, “We had a really fantastic meeting” that went “better than anybody could have expected, top of the line, really good.” To the Los Angeles Times (6/11, Bierman, 4.03M), the two leaders “appeared to open a new chapter...in America’s long-hostile relations with North Korea.” At the signing ceremony, Kim said, “The world will see a major change,” adding that he and Trump “decided to leave the past behind.”

Politico (6/11, Johnson, Toosi, 3.51M) says that while the “text of the agreement contained

few concrete steps,” Trump called the document “pretty comprehensive” and Kim “a worthy negotiator.” Kim, the Washington Times (6/12, Miller, 460K) reports, said the meeting “was the start of a working relationship between the two countries.”

Fox News (6/12, DeMarche, 16.38M) reports that during a press conference after the talks, Trump “did not refer to the document as a treaty or agreement,” and “said Kim agreed to destroy a ‘major’ missile testing site, but did not offer specific details.”

The Washington Examiner (6/12, Morrongiello, 340K) reports Kim “departed the summit site at around 2 p.m. Tuesday, just as hundreds of journalists were shuttled over for a late afternoon press conference with Trump.” Reuters (6/12) says Kim “is due to leave Singapore at 9 p.m. local time, two sources familiar with the plans said.”

Trump: US-South Korean Military Exercises On Hold. NBC News (6/11, Allen, 5.76M) reports that after Tuesday’s talks, President Trump “confirmed military exercises involving American and South Korea forces would be put on hold for now.” The AP (6/12, Miller, Lucey, Lederman, Klug) says Trump “announced that he will be freezing US military ‘war games’ with...South Korea while negotiations between the two countries continue.”

Trump Shows Kim His Presidential Limousine. Breitbart (6/11, Spiering, 1.28M) reports that after Tuesday’s talks, Trump “showed Kim the interior of his presidential limousine ‘The Beast’ as they walked together outside the hotel.”

Number Of US Journalists Permitted To Cover Talks Limited. According to Politico (6/11, Schwartz, 3.51M), “the number of American journalists allowed to witness” the ceremony “was limited to seven – a smaller group than would usually be present for such a summit, and one that excluded representatives from the major wire services.” The size “appeared designed to match the number of North Korean ‘journalists’ present, according to a press pool, and led to tension between US media and White House officials on the ground in Singapore.” White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders told Politico, “We have worked very hard to provide access to the media at this event and continually expanded coverage throughout the morning.”

Trump To Depart Singapore Early. Reuters (6/11, Holland) reports the White House

said Monday that discussions with North Korea had moved “more quickly than expected” and Trump would leave Singapore on Tuesday night. He had earlier been scheduled to leave on Wednesday. Two US officials told Bloomberg News (6/11, 4.46M) that Kim “set a deadline for ending” the summit, prompting Trump “to set an earlier-than-expected departure time.” The officials said Trump “had been willing to stay longer if negotiations were progressing, but since Kim set definite plans for departure, so did Trump.”

The AP (6/11, Miller, Lucey, Lederman) too says Trump announced on the eve of the meeting “that he will be leaving Singapore early because the nuclear negotiations have moved ‘more quickly than expected.’ That was before the two had even met, and it was not clear whether it was good news or not.”

Ahead of Tuesday’s summit, Trump tweeted, “Meetings between staffs and representatives are going well and quickly...but in the end, that doesn’t matter. We will all know soon whether or not a real deal, unlike those of the past, can happen!” He continued, “The fact that I am having a meeting is a major loss for the U.S., say the haters & losers. We have our hostages, testing, research and all missile launches have stopped, and these pundits, who have called me wrong from the beginning, have nothing else they can say! We will be fine!”

Pompeo: Denuclearization “Ultimate Objective” Of Summit. Ahead of today’s summit, Reuters (6/11, Spetalnick, Brunnstrom) reports Secretary of State Pompeo said the “ultimate objective” of the summit had not changed and the US was “eager to see” if North Korea was sincere about denuclearization. Pompeo told reporters Trump was “fully prepared” for the talks, and was optimistic that the outcome would be “successful,” while warning that there was still “lots of work left to do.”

Bloomberg News (6/11, Jacobs, Olorunnipa, Tweed, 4.46M) reports Pompeo also said the US plans to keep sanctions in place until North Korea denuclearizes yet is prepared to offer “unique” guarantees to the regime. In what Bloomberg calls a “stern message to Pyongyang,” he also stressed that complete denuclearization “is the only outcome that the United States will accept” from North Korea.

Breitbart (6/11, Caplan, 1.28M) reports Pompeo said the US is prepared to take actions to provide North Korea with “sufficient certainty” that

denuclearization “is not something that ends badly for them.” The Washington Times (6/11, Miller, 460K) likewise says Pompeo said the US “is prepared to offer new security assurance,” but “refused to elaborate.”

To the Los Angeles Times (6/11, Bierman, 4.03M), Pompeo also “publicly downplay[ed] expectations that the nuclear summit will lead to anything beyond future talks,” and the Washington Post (6/11, Nakamura, Rucker, 15.68M) says Trump too “has sought to lower expectations for the summit in recent days, suggesting that it would be the start of a lengthy process to get Pyongyang to begin dismantling its nuclear and ballistic missile programs.”

Kellyanne Conway said on Fox News’ Hannity (6/11, 3.26M), “This President knows that sometimes negotiations like this take one, two, three, four, five or more meetings. You can’t change 70 years of war and a country that has isolated itself from most of the rest of the world as it becomes nuclear capable. And you can’t expect that to turn around in a day or a meeting. Let’s remember what’s changed from past President attempts. It is the leadership and the vision of President Trump. It’s his ability to reframe the way we look at relations around the globe. And I will tell you, this is not an American issue. The denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula is everybody’s business.”

Sean Hannity said on Fox News’ Hannity (6/11, 3.26M), “There has been a lot of talk will they be talking beyond denuclearization about human rights? Will he they be talking about possible reunification of North and South Korea somewhere down the line? All of those issues, I’m sure, will be discussed at some point. But as the President was very clear when he left Washington, he was saying this is a process. There will be nothing signed here, he said. He said this might take two, three, four, five meetings or maybe even more. But it is certainly worth it if we can make the world a safer place. But, again, the core argument and mandate of the United States and this is very clear. It is complete, verifiable, irreversible denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.”

Hannity To Interview Trump After Summit. Axios (6/11, Swan, 2.49M) reports that it has learned Trump’s “first sit-down television interview after his historic summit” with Kim is expected to be with Hannity, “his friend and confidant.” A Fox

News spokeswoman “confirmed the interview” will air in full on Fox News’ Hannity on Tuesday.

WPost Analysis: Trump’s Feud With Trudeau “Looks Like A Stunt.” Callum Borchers writes for the Washington Post (6/11, 15.68M) “The Fix” blog that Trump’s “rationale for lashing out at Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau does not add up.” In a tweet, Trump pointed to “Justin’s false statements at his news conference” and “the fact that Canada is charging massive Tariffs.” But Borchers notes that Canadian tariffs “were in place long before the summit and did not prevent Trump from initially endorsing the G7 statement on trade.” He notes that “what was new was Trudeau’s news conference Saturday, where he said that Canadians ‘will not be pushed around.’” According to Borchers, “It appears as though Trump is the one performing a stunt, raging at Trudeau in theatrical fashion without a clear reason to be so worked up. In fact, [White House economic adviser Larry] Kudlow suggested in his appearance on CNN that Trump’s anger at Trudeau is an act for an audience of one: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.”

Kim Takes Late-Night Sightseeing Tour In Singapore. Reuters (6/11, Holland) reports that Kim, “one of the world’s most reclusive leaders, made an evening tour of sites on Singapore’s waterfront.” He was joined by Singapore’s foreign minister, Vivian Balakrishnan, “who took a selfie.” Reuters says the “rare public appearance of Kim, waving and smiling to onlookers, adds to the more affable image of the young leader that has emerged since his summit in April with South Korean leader Moon Jae-in.”

Bloomberg News (6/11, Zhai, Lee, 4.46M) similarly says the trip “marked a rare outing in a modern metropolis for a reclusive leader” who has “sought to overhaul his image this year.” To the Washington Post (6/11, Fifield, 15.68M), “the Singaporean hosts seemed to be daring Kim to think big, to dream of the kind of glittering future his country could have if it opens up to the outside world, as they took him on the late-evening tour.”

Dennis Rodman: Kim “Trying To Progress His Country.” Dennis Rodman said on CNN’s Cuomo Prime Time (6/11, 839K), “If President Trump goes in there with a great heart, with his heart on the table, and lets Kim Jong-un see him, really emotional, as far as speaking to him.” Kim, Rodman added, “is trying to progress his country. And Donald Trump is going to do a great job and

try to reach out and make sure our hands, America’s hands always open.... If Trump can pull this off, more power to him.”

The Gateway Pundit (6/11, Taylor, 201K) notes that Rodman wore a red Trump “Make America Great Again” hat during his “emotional interview” with CNN.

Politico Analysis: “Trump Made Diplomacy Great Again.” Blake Hounshell writes for Politico Magazine (6/11, 3.45M) that when “candidate Barack Obama said in a 2007 debate that he’d meet with the leaders of rogue states – including North Korea – without preconditions, critics pounced. ... Flash forward to today, and what are Republicans saying about the current president’s willingness – eagerness, even – to cut a nuclear deal with the most roguish leader of them all, North Korean strongman Kim Jong Un?” Not much, according to Hounshell, who notes that Democrats “have largely welcomed Trump’s North Korea diplomacy.” He argues that “whether he succeeds or fails, to his supporters, is almost beside the point – the president is making diplomacy great again.”

NYTimes Editorial Board Member Suggests Summit A Distraction From Russia Probe. The Daily Caller (6/11, Nista, 420K) reports New York Times editorial board member Mara Gay suggested Monday on MSNBC that today’s summit “exists to distract from the Russia investigation.” Said Wallace, “This is not just a meeting about foreign policy, this is about Donald Trump’s political survival. He has said to friends that he plans on taking a win in North Korea to the voters. That’s their midterm message; that’s all they’ve got.”

Trump To Hold Rally In MN8 Next Week. The Minneapolis Star Tribune (6/11, Golden, Van Berkel Star, 1.16M) reports the President “will make his first post-election visit to Minnesota...on June 20 at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center.” The Duluth (MN) News Tribune (6/11, Olsen, 195K) notes that “Trump, who campaigned in Superior in April 2016, will be the first sitting president to visit Duluth since George W. Bush in 2004.”

As KSJR-FM Collegeville, MN (6/11, 92K) reports, Duluth is “the battleground for the open and highly competitive 8th Congressional District seat,” which Trump won in 2016 even as Rep. Rick Nolan (D-MN) “held onto the seat in a close election and Minnesota chose Hillary Clinton for

president.” Nolan “earlier this year announced he would not seek re-election to the district, giving Republicans a key opportunity to flip the seat.” While “four Democrats are headed for an August primary at this point,” St. Louis County Commissioner Pete Stauber “is the lone Republican in the 8th District race. He’s a retired Duluth police officer who’s also served on the Hermantown City Council and in younger years played minor league professional hockey.” The Washington Examiner (6/11, Quinn, 340K) indicates, moreover, that “both of Minnesota’s senators, Democrats Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith, are on the ballot this November.”

The Hill (6/11, Samuels, 2.71M) quotes “Michael Glassner, COO of the Trump campaign,” as saying in a statement, “The President will meet with Minnesota patriots to report the latest developments for our surging economy, including record-low unemployment and fair trade reforms, and his historic summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un.” The Hill adds that the event “could be viewed as a sign of confidence from Trump on his chances in Minnesota.” The President “narrowly lost the state, which has been won by every Democratic candidate for president since 1972.”

The St. Paul (MN) Pioneer Press (6/11, Woltman, 453K) notes that “in an emailed statement, Jennifer Carnahan, chairwoman of the Republican Party of Minnesota, said she is excited to welcome the president back to the state.” Said Carnahan, “The importance of Minnesota this election cycle – in influencing the balance of power in Washington D.C. for the next two years and ensuring we send the President conservative reinforcements – depends on our ability to Make Minnesota Red. ... We look forward to the momentum and positive energy his visit will bring to Minnesota Republicans and our opportunities this election cycle.”

Trump Hails High Court Ruling Allowing Ohio To Drop Inactive Voters From Rolls.

President Trump took to Twitter yesterday to write, “Just won big Supreme Court decision on Voting! Great News!” Trump was referring to a case involving Ohio, which is receiving widespread print media coverage this morning. The AP (6/11, Sherman) reports that the Supreme Court has ruled that states “can target people who haven’t cast ballots in a while in efforts to purge their voting rolls.” In a “5-4 vote

that split the conservative and liberal justices, the court rejected arguments in a case from Ohio that the practice violates a federal law intended to increase the ranks of registered voters.” The AP adds “Ohio’s contested voter purge stems from an inoffensive requirement in federal law that states have to make an effort to keep their voter rolls in good shape by removing people who have moved or died.” Ohio “pursues its goal more aggressively than most, relying on two things: voter inactivity over six years encompassing three federal elections and the failure to return a card...asking people to confirm that they have not moved and continue to be eligible to vote.”

CNN (6/11, De Vogue, Vazquez, 82.6M) cautions on its website that “at least six other states have similar laws, and the ruling could embolden others to follow suit and enact what critics say are aggressive purges of voter rolls.” The Washington Times (6/11, Dinan, 460K), in fact, reports “the ruling is already boosting conservative groups pushing to have other states clean up their voter rolls.”

Politico (6/11, Gerstein, 3.51M) calls the ruling “a victory for the Trump administration,” and NPR (6/11, Totenberg, Montanaro, 3.55M) noted that “the Obama Justice Department had sided with the lead plaintiff in the case, Larry Harmon, a software engineer from the Akron area,” but “once [President] Trump was elected, the DOJ did an about-face and switched positions.”

The Los Angeles Times (6/11, Savage, 4.03M) says “the legal dispute played out against a backdrop where two major parties had opposite views. Republicans spoke of ‘voter fraud’ and election rolls they said were stocked with ineligible and illegal voters, while Democrats complained of “voter suppression” by GOP states which, they said, made it harder for minorities and the poor to cast ballots.” To USA Today (6/11, Wolf, 11.4M), along those lines, “the ruling could be a major victory for Republicans, who tend to benefit from lower voter turnout, and a stinging loss for Democrats, who do best in high-turnout elections.” That is “because minorities, young people and those with lower incomes are most likely to be disenfranchised by the state’s policy.” Newsweek (6/11, Goodkind, 2.18M) also reports “a number of civil rights groups argued that the decision would likely aid Republicans but hurt Democrats and voters of color.”

The Cleveland Plain Dealer (6/11, Eaton, 1.03M) notes “Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted

called the ruling in the case known as *Husted v. A. Philip Randolph Institute* ‘a victory for election integrity, and a defeat for those who use the federal court system to make election law across the country.’” Husted “is Attorney General Mike DeWine’s running mate in this year’s governor’s race.” DeWine said yesterday, “I am pleased that the United States Supreme Court agreed that Ohio was following federal law in maintaining accurate voter rolls. ... I congratulate our attorneys throughout this case for their exceptional work in documenting how this process used by Democrat and Republican secretaries of state is indeed lawful.” The Columbus (OH) Dispatch (6/11, Torry, Ludlow, 399K) reports Sen. Sherrod Brown, “a former secretary of state, assailed the ruling, saying ‘Ohio should be working to make voting easier, not harder. Instead, today’s decision empowers Ohio to further strip away the right to vote for thousands of Ohioans, threatening the integrity of our state’s election process.’”

CQ Roll Call (6/11, Ruger, 117K) reports House Minority Leader Pelosi “called the decision dangerous and ‘a grave step backward in our nation’s progress to advance a future in which every person can enjoy their full, equal right to be heard at the ballot box.’”

It was, Reuters (6/11, Chung) reports, “a ruling powered by the five conservative justices and denounced by liberal Justice Sonia Sotomayor as an endorsement of the disenfranchisement of minority and low-income Americans.” The Columbus (OH) Dispatch (6/11, Torry, Ludlow, 399K) reports that in his ruling, Justice Alito said Ohio’s system “does not violate federal laws approved in 1993 and 2002 by Congress.” Wrote Alito, “We have no authority to second-guess Congress or to decide whether (the Ohio’s law) is the ideal method for keeping its voting rolls up to date. ... The only question before us is whether it violates federal law. It does not.”

Meanwhile, says the Washington Post (6/11, Barnes, 15.68M), Sotomayor wrote in her dissent, “Communities that are disproportionately affected by unnecessarily harsh registration laws should not tolerate efforts to marginalize their influence in the political process, nor should allies who recognize blatant unfairness stand idly by.” Alito retorted, “Justice Sotomayor’s dissent says nothing about what is relevant in this case – namely, the language of the” National Voter Registration Act, and “has not pointed to any

evidence in the record that Ohio instituted or has carried out its program with discriminatory intent.”

NPR (6/11, Totenberg, Montanaro, 3.55M) reported “the first line of the opinion lays out evidence for why Alito sees the need to clean up voter rolls.” Wrote Alito, “It has been estimated that 24 million voter registrations in the United States – about one in eight – are either invalid or significantly inaccurate,” and “about 2.75 million people are said to be registered to vote in more than one State.” Alito was referencing “a Pew Center on the States” report, “the same study that incoming Trump White House officials cited – misleadingly – to make the case that voter fraud was occurring and immigrants in the US illegally were voting.”

Fox News (6/11, Mears, 16.38M) reports on its website that “Alito, in his opinion, clarified that states could not use the failure to vote as the sole reason for removal from the register.” Officials “would be required to show someone had changed their residence, was incarcerated or met other criteria.” The New York Times (6/11, Liptak, Subscription Publication, 19.33M) indicates, however, that “the central question in the case was whether a failure to vote could be the reason to send out the notice.”

Politico (6/11, Gerstein, 3.51M) reports that “Stuart Naifeh, senior counsel at Demos, which led the legal team challenging the state’s practices,” said yesterday that the ruling “threatens the ability of voters to have their voices heard in our elections.” The Wall Street Journal (6/11, Kendall, Bravin, Subscription Publication, 6.13M), Washington Examiner (6/11, Quinn, 340K) and The Hill (6/11, Wheeler, 2.71M), among other news outlets, run similar reports on the ruling.

More Commentary. The Washington Post (6/11, 15.68M) editorializes that “though the court majority determined that” Ohio’s approach to purging the voter rolls “is legal, it is not wise,” as “states should be encouraging more civic participation, not less.” The Post adds that in the US, “political legitimacy flows from popular approval,” and “systematically discouraging sections of the populace from voting is cynical and detrimental to the democracy.” USA Today (6/11, 11.4M) offers similar arguments in an editorial titled “Supreme Court Upholds Ohio’s Vote Suppression Scheme.”

In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (6/11, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) defends the

ruling, hailing it as a step toward more accurate voter rolls. Pete Hutchison, president of Landmark Legal Foundation, writes in USA Today (6/11, 11.4M) that “the dissenting justices object to the Ohio Legislature’s policy decisions,” but “the job of judging is to apply the law as written and not to second-guess the people’s representatives. Monday’s decision is a victory for ballot integrity.”

Trump-Recruited GOP Candidate Frustrated By Trump’s “Affinity” For Heitkamp. The Washington Post (6/11, Sullivan, 15.68M) reports, “President Trump is aggressively campaigning for Republican Senate candidates around the country and belittling their Democratic rivals, with one notable exception – Sen. Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota.” The President’s “affinity for Heitkamp, who got a shout-out and a handshake at a recent White House bill signing, has frustrated top Republicans who see winning her Democratic seat as crucial to holding onto their fragile 51-to-49 majority.” Rep. Kevin Cramer (R-ND), “whom Trump personally recruited to run against Heitkamp,” has contacted Chief of Staff Kelly “to appeal for political help” and has “traded warning shots with Trump’s legislative affairs director, Marc Short.”

Obama Meeting With Potential 2020 Democratic Presidential Candidates. CNN (6/11, Merica, 82.6M) reports on its website, “Barack Obama has met with several Democrats considering running for president in 2020, a Democrat close to the former president tells CNN, offering them advice on running in the Trump era and discussing how to position the party going forward.” CNN adds that “to date, according to the Democrat, Obama has met with Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders; Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren; former Vice President Joe Biden; former Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick; New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker; former New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu; Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti; South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Peter Buttigieg; former Missouri Secretary of State Jason Kander; and former Attorney General Eric Holder.”

Politico (6/11, Dove, 3.51M) says “Obama is concerned about how his own party is responding” to President Trump, “and how it can be best positioned to win in the midterms and in the next presidential cycle to beat back the president and his politics.” Obama, adds Politico, “doesn’t see himself as the person to come up

with the plan,” but “he is eager to be a sounding board and counselor.”

New D’Souza Film Compares Anti-Trump “Resistance” To Democrats’ Opposition To Lincoln. The Hill (6/11, Concha, 2.71M) reports “conservative filmmaker Dinesh D’Souza, who was recently pardoned by President Trump, is making comparisons for his next film between the Democratic resistance to Trump and how Democrats didn’t accept President Lincoln’s reelection during the Civil War.” The Twitter “account for D’Souza’s next film, ‘Death of a Nation,’” stated yesterday, “Not since 1865 have #Democrats so dramatically refused to accept the outcome of a presidential election.” D’Souza also weighed in on Twitter, asking, “Lincoln united his party and saved America from the Democrats for the first time. Can Trump – and wen-- come together and save America for the second time?”

Trump Highlights Good Economic News. In a tweet Monday afternoon, Trump touted his economic record, writing, “Stock Market up almost 40% since the Election, with 7 Trillion Dollars of U.S. value built throughout the economy. Lowest unemployment rate in many decades, with Black & Hispanic unemployment lowest in History, and Female unemployment lowest in 21 years. Highest confidence ever!”

Stocks Rise Slightly. Trump’s tweet came on a day that stocks posted slight gains. Reuters (6/11, Brown) reports that the Dow climbed 5.78 points to 25,322.31, the S&P 500 added 2.97 points to close at 2,782, and the Nasdaq ended the day 14.41 points higher at 7,659.93.

Fed weighs Historically Low Unemployment In Considering Rate Decision. The Wall Street Journal (6/11, Timiraos, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) reports that as the Federal Reserve prepares to announce whether it will raise the benchmark short-term interest rate on Wednesday, it is considering how far unemployment may fall without stoking inflation. The Journal adds that the US unemployment rate has only hit its current level of 3.8% twice before in the past 50 years, one of which, in the 1960s, spurred high inflation. The article adds that the Fed is projected to increase its short-term rate to between 1.75% and two percent, adding that Fed Chairman Jerome Powell’s view of the near-term future of US

unemployment will drive Fed interest rate decisions.

***Mahe* Hopes For Recession So We Can “Get Rid Of Trump.”** Writing on Townhall (6/11, 209K), Matt Vespa cites a RealClear Politics report which said that comedian Bill Maher said Friday that he is hoping for a recession so we can “get rid of Trump.” On his HBO show Real Time, Maher said, “Can I ask about the economy because this economy is going pretty well? I feel like the bottom has to fall out at some point. And by the way, I’m hoping for it. Because I think one way you get rid of Trump is a crashing economy. So, please, bring on the recession. Sorry if that hurts people, but it’s either root for a recession or you lose your democracy.”

Pai: Expiration Of Net Neutrality Means A Return To Clinton-Era Framework. The Washington Times (6/11, Muñoz, 460K) reports that as net neutrality regulations ended Monday, FCC Chairman Ajit Pai “touted a return to past policies,” saying the “new approach is actually more like the policy set in place by former President Bill Clinton.” Pai told CBS This Morning, “President Clinton’s framework, it served us well from ‘96 until 2015, and I’m confident going forward.” Reuters (6/11, Shepardson) says that while the net neutrality rules expired Monday, “a court battle remains ahead.”

Pentagon Officials Distance Themselves From LGBT Pride Month Observances. The Washington Post (6/11, Sonne, 15.68M) reports that for the first time since the practice became routine in the wake of President Obama’s repeal of the military’s ban on homosexuals serving openly, senior Pentagon officials “are distancing themselves from the Defense Department’s annual LGBT Pride Month celebrations.” While an official Pentagon memo is typically distributed at the beginning of LGBT Pride Month in June, the absence of the memo this year “has raised questions among service members and Defense Department civilian employees who remain troubled by President Trump’s surprise proclamation last July that he would ban transgender individuals from serving in the military.”

Biden Heckled During Book Tour Stop In Delaware. The Wilmington (DE) News

Journal (6/11, Price, 304K) reports that former Vice President Joe Biden was heckled during a book tour stop in his hometown of Wilmington, Delaware on Sunday. As Biden “was talking about sexual assault,” the heckler asked, “What about the girls you molested on C-SPAN at the Senate swearing in?” The taunt drew boos and shouting from the audience, but Biden “quieted the crowd enough to respond: ‘This is not Trump world,’ which drew a deluge of applause and cheers, even as catcalls and boos aimed at the heckler continued.”

Poll: Scott “Dominating” Nelson Among Florida Voters 50 And Older.

Politico (6/11, Caputo, 3.51M) reports that a forthcoming Politico/AARP poll shows that Gov. Rick Scott “is virtually tied” with Sen. Bill Nelson in the Florida Senate race, and is “dominating” Nelson “by 9 points among those nearing or at retirement age – a group that casts the majority of Florida’s votes.” Overall, “Scott leads Nelson overall by 40 percent to 39 percent, but Scott’s support grows to 44 percent while Nelson’s shrinks to 35 percent with those 50 and older.”

McClatchy Analysis: Sanford Fighting For Political Life In SC1 GOP Primary.

McClatchy (6/11, Douglas, Dumain, 81K) reports that Rep. Mark Sanford (R-SC) is fighting for his political life in his Tuesday primary “thanks to his disagreements with President Donald Trump.” Recent polling shows Sanford and State Rep. Katie Arrington “in a statistical tie” in SC1.

In AL2, Rouby Faces Runoff Amid Questions About Her Loyalty To Trump.

The New York Times (6/11, Blinder, Martin, Subscription Publication, 19.33M) reports that President Trump “has become a one-man litmus test in some of his party’s primaries, imperiling incumbents in races where policy issues seem to matter less to voters than personal loyalty to the president.” In AL2, Republican voters “face a peculiar choice in a runoff” – Rep. Martha Roby (R-AL), “who condemned Mr. Trump but has since voted nearly in lock step with him,” or Bobby Bright, “who was once a Democrat who supported Nancy Pelosi, but now sounds much like the president.” That Rouby was “forced into a runoff by questions of personal fealty illustrates the potency of the issue in this year’s Republican primaries.”

Democrats Consulting With Hollywood Ahead Of Midterms. Politico

(6/11, Siders, 3.51M) reports that the DNC and Democratic lawmakers are “quietly consulting” with Hollywood actors, writers, and producers for “help with voter turnout and messaging ahead of the midterm elections and 2020 presidential campaign.” DNC Chairman Tom Perez, several House members, and others have met with a group “formed by members of the entertainment industry in the wake of the 2016 election,” to discuss “targeted voter-registration programs with visiting Democrats, as well as the party’s framing of issues ranging from abortion rights to gun control.”

AP Analysis: Democratic House Candidates Pushing Liberal Messages. The AP (6/11, Barrow, Beaumont) reports that Democrats’ midterm House candidates are “shaping up to test what liberal messages the party can sell to the moderate and GOP-leaning voters who will help determine control of the House after the November election.” According to the AP, “the crop of nominees is trending more liberal than many of the ‘Blue Dog’ Democrats swept away in Republicans’ 2010 midterm romp.” As a result, “voters now represented by a Republican will be asked to consider some or all of the mainstream Democratic priorities that may have been considered ‘too liberal’ in the past: more government involvement in health insurance, tighter gun laws, a path to citizenship for people in the country illegally, reversing parts of the GOP tax law, support for LGBTQ rights.” The question is whether that will result in “Democrats gaining the 23 new seats they need for a majority.”

Democrats Hope Anti-Trump Sentiment Will Help Unseat Comstock.

The Washington Times (6/11, Sherfinski, 460K) reports that Democrats “are counting on an anti-Trump backlash, a desire to overturn the Republican-led Congress and a surge of interest in gun control to unseat suburban Republicans” like Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-VA) in VA10. But Comstock “said she has been a top target in her past two elections yet emerged with a 16-percentage-point victory in 2014 and won re-election by 6 points in 2016, even as Hillary Clinton carried the district by close to double digits.” Comstock “is highlighting her vote for Republican tax cuts and her work combating

violent gangs in the region as she tries to shore up the pro-Trump elements of her party.”

Female Gubernatorial Candidates Say They Face Resistance To Female Executive Power.

The New York Times (6/11, Martin, Burns, Subscription Publication, 19.33M) reports that while women “have emerged as the animating force behind the backlash to President Trump, with many storming to victory in congressional primaries, several are finding governor’s races to be more challenging as they struggle to build as much political and financial support as their male rivals.” From today through September, “female candidates for governor will be on the ballot in Democratic primaries across 17 states, including pivotal battlegrounds such as Florida, Wisconsin and Colorado,” but “several said they are facing entrenched resistance to female power at the executive level, and male opponents with deeper campaign coffers and, in some cases, far less political experience.”

Bill Clinton: Norms Of “What You Can Do To Someone Against Her Will” Have Changed.

The Daily Caller (6/11, Athey, 420K) reports that in an interview with PBS on Friday, former President Bill Clinton “made a disturbing statement about sexual consent.” Asked about the resignation of Sen. Al Franken and what that says about changing norms, Clinton said, “I think it’s a good thing that we should all have higher standards,” Clinton said. “I think the norms have really changed in terms of, what you can do to somebody against their will, how much you can crowd their space, make them miserable at work.”

USA Today (6/11, Cummings, 11.4M) reports that Clinton “said that Franken was ‘a difficult case’ for him because while there may be facts he doesn’t know about the allegations, many of Franken’s past female colleagues came to his defense.” Clinton said, “Maybe I’m just an old-fashioned person... but it seemed to me that there were 29 women on ‘Saturday Night Live’ that put out a statement for him, and that the first and most fantastic story was called, I believe, into question.” Referring to Franken’s resignation, he added that it is “a grievous thing to take away from the people a decision they have made. ... But it’s done now.”

Poll: 53% See Clinton As A Sexual Predator. Katie Pavlich writes on Townhall (6/11, 209K) that the latest Rasmussen Reports poll

found that “just 24% of Likely U.S. Voters consider Clinton a victim of his political opponents. Fifty-three percent (53%) describe the ex-president as a sexual predator instead. Another 24% are undecided.”

Broadway Veterans, Trump Critics Struggle With De Niro’s Tony Comments.

The Washington Post (6/11, Zeitchik, 15.68M) reports that actor Robert De Niro’s speech at the Tony Awards, in which he said, “F---Trump. ... It’s no longer down with Trump...but F--- Trump,” made “a Broadway extravaganza and a beloved American actor...a lighting-rod referendum on Trumpism.” The Post adds that at a post-ceremony party, “the Trump moment was on many Broadway veterans’ minds. They just couldn’t figure out what to make of it or whether what he did was a good thing.”

The Washington Times (6/11, Chasmar, 460K) reports that MSNBC host Joe Scarborough said De Niro and those who applauded his comments are unwittingly aiding the President’s re-election. Scarborough said, “If people that applauded De Niro’s statement last night don’t understand that they are helping Donald Trump’s re-election every time they do something like that, they don’t understand.”

Twitter CEO Draws Fire For Chick-Fil-A Post During Pride Month.

USA Today (6/11, Carrig, 11.4M) reports that Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey apologized after a tweet in which he said he ordered food from Chick-fil-A drew criticism on social media. Dorsey was criticized “for supporting Chick-fil-A during” June, which is LGBTQ Pride Month. In 2012, Chick-fil-A “came under fire from gay rights supporters...because of comments made by the fast food chicken chain’s CEO, Dan Cathy, expressing opposition to same-sex marriage” and the company’s donations to anti-gay groups. Amid the backlash from his original tweet, Dorsey wrote, “You’re right. Completely forgot about their background.”

Under the headline “Jack Dorsey Chickens Out,” a Wall Street Journal (6/11, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) editorial takes issue with the criticism of Dorsey and argues the Chick-fil-A restaurants serves everyone and Cathy was expressing his personal beliefs when he voiced opposition to gay marriage.

Rubio Defends Chick-Fil-A. The Washington Times (6/11, Richardson, 460K)

reports that Sen. Marco Rubio “stood up for Chick-fil-A” in a series of tweets. Rubio “questioned the prudence of boycotting a company for holding a mainstream Christian view on marriage.” He wrote, “This lunacy has gone too far. The CEO of @Twitter bullied into apology for patronizing @ChickfilA because owners support “biblical definition of marriage. Holding a personal view taught by mainstream Christianity is now boycott worthy.” Rubio followed that with another, saying, “@ChickfilA isn’t denying service to anyone. But if you eat there you must be attacked by the twitter mob b/c owner agrees with what his church teaches about marriage? Why would twitter mob stop at biz owned by Christians? Who is next? Christian schools? Christian charities?” In a final tweet, Rubio wrote, “The message from latest @ChickfilA incident is this: “Your church can still teach traditional marriage (which by the way we will still label as a bigoted belief) but don’t you dare repeat it outside of church or we will come after you, your business and/or your job.”

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP

New York Times. “*The Healthcare Stalkers.*” The New York Times (6/11, Subscription Publication, 19.33M) similarly argues in an editorial that Democrats who hope “to make health care a centerpiece of midterm election campaigns just got a gift from the Trump administration,” as the Justice Department has “declined to defend the Affordable Care Act against a lawsuit filed by 20 Republican-led states,” and is “arguing for the repeal of enormously popular consumer protections, including coverage of pre-existing conditions.”

“*America Isolated.*” The New York Times (6/11, Subscription Publication, 19.33M) writes on its editorial page that last weekend’s G7 summit was “a confirmation that so long as Mr. Trump is in the White House, and maybe beyond that, something fundamental in the community of Western democracies will be missing. America, the leader of the free world and the architect of so much of the modern world order, had decided to go its own way.” The Times argues that “it’s past time to recognize that this president has transformed ‘America First’ into ‘America Alone,’ and that this is the last place a great and powerful nation wants to be.”

Washington Post. *“Why Are Republicans So Determined To Discourage People From Voting?”* The Washington Post (6/11, 15.68M) editorializes that “though the [Supreme Court] majority determined that” Ohio’s approach to purging the voter rolls “is legal, it is not wise,” as “states should be encouraging more civic participation, not less.” The Post adds that in the US, “political legitimacy flows from popular approval,” and “systematically discouraging sections of the populace from voting is cynical and detrimental to the democracy.”

“Canada Has Every Right To Be Insulted.”

The Washington Post editorializes that Canada “has every right to be insulted that Mr. Trump would invoke national security in their trade dispute. Canada has stood with the United States in every modern war and crisis. There is no doubt that the United States could rely on Canadian steel and aluminum if another crisis developed, obviating the stated rationale for imposing the tariffs.” Trump’s “trade offensive,” it argues, “is an insult.”

Wall Street Journal. *“The Autumn Of Obamacare.”* A Wall Street Journal (6/11, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) editorial says that while Democrats are blaming Republicans for double-digit healthcare premium increases, the problem is the structure of the ACA. As the election approaches, the Journal adds, Republicans will have to refute the Democrats’ false claims.

“Jack Dorsey Chickens Out.” A Wall Street Journal (6/11, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) editorial takes issue with criticism of Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey over a tweet in which he said he ordered food from Chick-fil-A. The Journal argues the Chick-fil-A restaurants serves everyone and that Chick-fil-A CEO Dan Cathy was expressing his personal beliefs when he voiced opposition to gay marriage.

“A Victory For Voting Law.” In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (6/11, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) defends the Supreme Court ruling on states purging voter rolls, hailing it as a step toward more accurate voter rolls.

THE BIG PICTURE

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

WALL STREET JOURNAL:

Trump Greeted Kim To Kick Off Summit
The Fed’s Biggest Dilemma: Is The Booming Job Market A Problem?
Stryker Makes Takeover Approach To Boston Scientific
Buyer Beware When A Stock Joins The S&P 500

NEW YORK TIMES:

Trump, After Talks With Kim, Says Denuclearization Will Begin ‘Quickly’
Sessions Says Domestic And Gang Violence Are Not Grounds For Asylum
Supreme Court Upholds Ohio’s Purge Of Voting Rolls
New York City Housing Authority, Accused Of Endangering Residents, Agrees To Oversight
Democratic Women Are Running For Governor. Men And Money Stand In Their Way.
The Nine Steps Required To Really Disarm North Korea

WASHINGTON POST:

Trump And North Korea’s Kim Meet For Historic Summit
Justices Uphold Ohio’s System For Purging Rolls Of Nonvoters
President Increasingly Relies On Unilateral Action To Wield Power
Smiles And Handshakes Could Mask Divide Over Nuclear Arms
Is MS-13 Overtaking A Middle School In MD.?

FINANCIAL TIMES:

Citi Issues Stark Warning On Automation Of Bank Jobs
Martin Sorrell’s Downfall: Why The Ad King Left WPP
Duque Readies To Become Colombia’s Youngest President
Spain To Take In 629 Migrants Stranded At Sea After Italy Refuses

WASHINGTON TIMES:

Trump, Kim Jong-Un Sign Document, Pledge To Work Together For Peace
Jeff Sessions Sets Higher Bar For Asylum Claims
USS Pueblo Still Held Hostage By North Korea As Trump, Kim Meet
Va. Democrats Banking On Anti-Trump Backlash In Bid To Unseat Rep. Barbara Comstock
Redskins Replacement Players From 1987 To Get Super Bowl Rings

Murky U.S. Drone-Strike Policy Threatens To Backfire As Other Nations Acquire Technology

STORY LINEUP FROM LAST NIGHT'S NETWORK NEWS:

ABC: US-North Korea Relations-Summit; US-North Korea Relations-Kim-Jong-Un Insights; US-North Korea Relations-Korean Peninsula; Trump-G7 Allies Relations; Severe Weather; Trump-Immigration; Orlando-Hostage Situation; Washington State-Cabin Explosion; United Airlines-Security Threat; Anthony Bourdain-Suicide; US-North Korea Relations-Kim Jong-Un Out Late.

CBS: US-North Korea Relations-Summit; Trump-G7 Allies Relations; US-North Korea Relations-Kim-Jong-Un Insights; US-North Korea Relations-Denuclearization; US-North Korea Relations-Trump's Deal Making; Colorado-Wildfires; Orlando-Hostage Situation; Anthony Bourdain-Suicide; North Korea Defector.

NBC: US-North Korea Relations-Summit; US-North Korea Relations-Kim-Jong-Un Insights; US-North Korea Relations-Singapore; US-North Korea Relations-South Korea; Trump-G7 Allies Relations; Trump-Immigration; Missing US Official Found; Orlando-Hostage Situation; Colorado-Wildfires; Ohio-Explosion Investigation; US-North Korea Relations-Reactions.

NETWORK TV AT A GLANCE:

US-North Korea Relations-Summit – 13 minutes, 15 seconds

US-North Korea Relations-Kim-Jong-Un Insights – 11 minutes, 0 seconds

Trump-G7 Allies Relations – 6 minutes, 5 seconds
Orlando-Hostage Situation – 2 minutes, 50 seconds

STORY LINEUP FROM THIS MORNING'S RADIO NEWS BROADCASTS:

ABC: US-North Korea Relations-Summit; US-North Korea Relations-Summit-Reactions; Orlando-Hostage Situation; Trump-Immigration.

CBS: US-North Korea Relations-Summit; WH-Kudlow Heart Attack; Trump-Immigration; Immigration-Cheating For Green Cards; Crash Test Results; Wall Street.

FOX: US-North Korea Relations-Summit; WH-Kudlow Heart Attack; Supreme Court-Ohio Voter Ruling.

NPR: US-North Korea Relations-Summit; US-North Korea Relations-Choreographed Hand Shake; WH-Kudlow Heart Attack; WH-Treasury-

Sanctions Against Russian Businesses; Trump-Immigration.

LAST LAUGHS

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: “When he left the G7, Trump said his relationship with the other leaders was a 10. He rated it a 10. And then a few hours later, I guess he didn't like the idea that the Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau didn't do as he was told, and so Trump tweeted, ‘PM Justin Trudeau of Canada acted so meek and mild during our G7 meetings, only to give a news conference after I left saying that US tariffs were kind of insulting and he will not be pushed around. Very dishonest and weak. Our tariffs are in response to his of 270 percent on dairy.’ Bearing in mind that first of all, our dairy trade with Canada – it's only about \$600 million a year, which is about what it costs for him to play golf every week.”

Jimmy Kimmel: “And he justified these new tariffs in the first place by saying our national security was at stake. Now he's saying it's because of dairy. How does Canadian dairy threaten our national security? Are they planning to churn us to death? Are they going to drop cheese curds on us and turn us into poutine?”

Jimmy Kimmel: “And who has a problem with Canada? No one has a problem with Canada. It's like picking a fight with Nilla Wafers. No one does it. It's ridiculous.”

Jimmy Kimmel: “Trump also threatened to cut off all trade with the other six nations at the summit. All our closest allies. We would not trade with them anymore. German Chancellor Angela Merkel said she found his actions at the summit to be sobering and depressing. And when a German finds you to be sobering and depressing – bad news. This is the country that gave us Hitler and David Hasselhoff.”

Stephen Colbert: “Folks, it is an historic evening because, as we speak, President Trump is meeting with North Korean dictator Kim Jong-un, a scenario that, just a few years ago, would have been unthinkable because it includes the phrase ‘President Trump.’”

Stephen Colbert: “So tensions are high. The

United States is on the precipice of unthinkable international conflict, and that's with Canada."

Stephen Colbert: "If you're one of those nerds who values the Western alliance that has safeguarded democracy for 70 years, it was a tough weekend for you because Canada hosted the G7, and it did not go 'the good.' Keep in mind, the G7 are our trading partners, and right before he attended, Donald Trump declared protectionist trade tariffs against all of them. That's like showing up to an AA meeting with Captain Morgan."

James Corden: "Tomorrow is the big summit meeting between President Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. Trump spent the day preparing for the summit, which basically means he wrote on his hands, 'South Korea good, North Korea bad,' so he doesn't get confused."

James Corden: "When asked by reporters how he will know if North Korean leader Kim Jong-un is serious about a peace treaty, President Trump said he will use his 'touch and feel.' This may not be a great plan. The last time Trump used his 'touch and feel' method, he had to pay Stormy Daniels \$130,000."

James Corden: "Honestly, it may work. After three minutes of being touched and felt by Trump, Kim Jong-un is just going to shout, 'Fine, take the nukes! Just stop touching me!'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Tonight in Singapore, Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un finally came face to face. Or in Kim's case, more like face to belly button."

Jimmy Fallon: "There's a lot riding on this meeting. Last night, Kim spent hours preparing, while at the same time, Trump was in bed waiting for 'Spongebob' to perform on the Tonys."

Seth Meyers: "President Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un met tonight in Singapore after we taped our show. So if you're watching this on TV right now, either it went well, or you have a TV in your fallout shelter."

Seth Meyers: "Dennis Rodman arrived in Singapore today for the summit with Kim Jong-un. So at least if Kim launches a nuclear missile, Rodman will be there to grab the rebound."

Conan O'Brien: "This past weekend, President Trump told reporters he'll know if the Kim Jong-un

meeting is going well by 'touch and feel.' That's what he said. In other words, Trump's lawyer is going to have to pay Kim Jong-un \$130,000."

Conan O'Brien: "North Korean leader Kim Jong-un brought his own toilet to the summit in Singapore. When he saw the toilet, President Trump said, 'Oh, so you're planning to tweet, too.'"

Conan O'Brien: "President Trump said that during the North Korea summit, he will not focus on human rights abuses. Trump said, 'My marriage is no one's business.'"

Trevor Noah: "White House staffers have reportedly been taping pieces of paper back together after President Trump rips them up. They need to tape them back together to comply with the Presidential Records Act. According to Politico, the papers include letters and official documents required by law to be preserved and sent to the National Archives. ... President Trump's tearing up official documents? I mean, let's not act surprised. After all, he spent the last year tearing up the Constitution."

Trevor Noah: "I don't know why Trump rips up all his paper. My guess is to show off how strong he is. 'Would an unhealthy President be able to do this?!'"

Trevor Noah: Trump said "he wants Russia to be welcomed back into the G8. I don't know if Trump colluded with Russia, but if everyone was accusing me of colluding with Russia, I wouldn't be caught dead mentioning their name. If your girlfriend accused you of cheating with Keisha, even if you didn't do it, shut up about Keisha, just shut up."

Trevor Noah: "Trump went into the G7 for a run-of-the-mill check-in with America's allies and came out full-on beefing with Canada, the Ned Flanders of countries."

Trevor Noah: "Emmanuel Macron called Trump incoherent, and Angela Merkel said it is sobering and depressing. She is German, so everything is sobering and depressing to her. She was at breakfast saying, 'I find this pancake both sobering and depressing.'"

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TO: THE SECRETARY AND SENIOR STAFF

DATE: MONDAY, JUNE 25, 2018 7:30 AM EDT

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LEADING THE NEWS

Administration Says It Has Devised A Plan To Reunite Some 2,000 Separated Children With Parents. The Washington Post (6/24, Miroff, Sacchetti, 15.68M) reports that late Saturday, the Trump Administration indicated "it is taking steps to reunify hundreds of Central American parents separated from their children during the recent border crackdown, with plans to then deport them from a remote detention facility in South Texas." The Administration said it has in its custody 2,053 children who were separated from their parents,

and that it has already released 522 immigrant children to family members. The government stated, "The United States government knows the location of all children in its custody and is working to reunite them with their families. ... This process is well coordinated." The article adds that on Sunday, an Administration official said "the number of children returned to their families to date may be 'slightly higher' than 522 because the Department of Health and Human Services has released some minors to the custody of other sponsors, typically close relatives."

The CBS Weekend News (6/24, lead story, 2:40, Quijano, 5.32M) reported in its lead story, "Officials said Saturday night more than 2,000

separated minors remained in government facilities. ... But it's not known how long the process to reunite families will take."

The New York Times (6/24, Jett, Zaveri, Subscription Publication, 19.33M) reports that the Administration's "efforts to match separated migrant children with their guardians face considerable obstacles." In addition, "the process of reuniting families as well as the indefinite detention they face once they're back together could have psychological consequences for parents and children alike, experts said." The article says government workers, "some of whom were conflicted about Mr. Trump's policy, have been working overtime in an effort to reunite the thousands of children and parents who were separated at the border over a period of several weeks this spring." The piece mentions that HHS' Office of Refugee Resettlement "has a toll-free number set up for parents looking for their children."

ABC World News Tonight (6/24, story 6, 2:15, Johnson, 14.63M) reported that "there's chaos at the border" as the Trump Administration is "releasing a plan to reunite the migrant families."

The CBS Weekend News (6/24, story 2, 1:05, Quijano, 5.32M) reported, "We have also learned that Immigration And Customs Enforcement have dedicated the Port Isabel detention center as the primary family reunification center for adults in their custody."

On its front page, the Wall Street Journal (6/24, A1, Radnofsky, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) reports Administration officials indicated that they want to deport reunited families, not keep them in the US. The article says HHS has been caring for the children who were separated from their parents as a result of the Administration's zero tolerance policy, as well as for unaccompanied immigrant teens. The department has more than 2,000 of the former, and about 10,000 of the latter.

The AP (6/24, Long) reports that the Department of Homeland Security and other departments unveiled a "zero-tolerance prosecution and family reunification" fact sheet on Saturday. The fact sheet does not indicate how long it may take to reunite families, but it does say parents must ask that their children be deported with them. The article adds that precisely how the Administration "would reunite families has been unclear because the families are first stopped by Customs and Border Patrol, with children taken

into custody by HHS and adults detained through Immigration and Customs Enforcement."

Reuters (6/24, Torbati) reports that the Administration released the information about its plan following "criticism from lawyers for parents and children who have said they have seen little evidence of an organized system." The article adds that the fact sheet says "children are given the chance to speak with a 'vetted parent, guardian or relative' within 24 hours of arriving at a facility run by Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)."

The Los Angeles Times (6/24, King, 4.03M) reports that Democrats "responded skeptically Sunday to the Trump administration's assertion that it has a process in place to reunite more than 2,000 'separated minors' with their parents."

In a separate article, the Washington Post (6/24, Sacchetti, Miller, Moore, 15.68M) reports Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) said, "It's clear" that "they're not running a reunification process here."

Also covering the story were NBC Nightly News (6/24, story 2, 2:00, Snow, 8.26M), CNN (6/23, Kopan, 82.6M), the Los Angeles Times (6/23, Dolan, 4.03M), NBC News, (6/24, Gambos, 5.76M) NPR (6/24, Van Sant, 3.55M), Boston Globe (6/24, Goodwin, 945K), the Arizona Republic (6/23, Nández, Wang, 1.21M), the New York Post (6/24, Moore, 4.46M), and Vox (6/23, Kirby, 1.66M).

HHS Establishes Task Force To Reunite Separated Immigrant Families. HHS has established an "unaccompanied children reunification task force," a first step toward reunifying thousands of migrant children in the agency's custody with their families, according to an internal document obtained by Politico (6/22, Diamond, 3.51M), which added that "the task force was established by the assistant secretary for preparedness and response – the arm of the agency that responds to public health disasters, and an indication that the challenge of reunifying thousands of families is likely beyond the capabilities of the refugee office." The order read, "The Secretary of Health and Human Services has directed the Assistant Secretary of Preparedness and Response assist the ACF Office of Refugee Resettlement with Unaccompanied Children Reunification." HHS spokesperson Evelyn Stauffer said HHS Secretary Alex Azar "is bringing to bear all the relevant resources of the department in order to

assist in the reunification or placement of unaccompanied alien children and teenagers with a parent or appropriate sponsor.”

In the NBC Nightly News (6/22, lead story, 2:35, Holt, 6.6M) lead segment, Gabe Gutierrez reported HHS has “a network of about 100 shelters...in 17 states” and “says the average stay of a child at its shelters is 57 days.” According to HHS spokesman Mark Weber, “We are working as fast as we possibly can to find safe homes for these children.”

Although the AP (6/22, Merchant, Bryan, Long) reported that a senior Administration official on Thursday said “about 500 of the more than 2,300 children separated from their families at the U.S.-Mexico border have been reunited since May,” and Mireya Villarreal reported on the lead CBS Evening News (6/22, lead story, 2:35, Glor, 5.03M) segment that a senior Administration official announced “the rest of the 1,800 that still remain separated will be reunited by Sunday,” the Los Angeles Times (6/22, Ulloa, 4.03M) said federal officials nonetheless warned on Friday that “the process of reunifying families who have been separated at the border could take months.”

Meanwhile, Reuters (6/22, Hals) reported that US District Court Judge Dana Sabraw “said on Friday he could rule as soon as the middle of next week on a request to order the U.S. government to reunite thousands of immigrant children who were separated from their parents after illegally crossing the Mexico-U.S. border.” The article added that Sabraw “peppered a government lawyer with questions,” but he “declined to rule at the hearing without further briefing and suggested the ACLU provide details for procedures for reuniting parents and children.” Politico (6/22, Gerstein, 3.51M) reported that Sabraw said, “What’s happened in this case is unusual in that the case has developed in the media.” He added that if he issues an injunction, “there has to be some evidentiary basis for it other than newspaper and television and radio accounts.”

However, on ABC’s Good Morning America (6/22, 4.2M), David Muir reported that “some of the first of the parents and children [are] reuniting after being separated at the border, but there’s still so many at more than a dozen shelters around the country, including babies and young children.” Jon Karl added that “for most of the children taken away from their parents because of President Trump’s ‘zero tolerance’ policy, it is unclear...how or when they’ll be reunited with their families.”

On CBS This Morning (6/22, 2.91M), David Begnaud reported from McAllen, Texas that, in regards to the 2,000 children separated from their families, the key question now is “how and when are they going to be reunited?” At the opening of CNN’s New Day (6/22, 424K), Alisyn Camerota said, “There’s so much confusion this morning, particularly for the parents of these kids, and heartbreak. Can you imagine not knowing at this hour where your child is, what state, what condition that child is in? It’s two days since President Trump signed the order halting those family separations, but children are still not reunited with their parents, and those parents don’t know where their kids are.”

USA Today (6/22, Hughes, 11.4M) similarly said the executive order “sowed more confusion into what was already a complicated system of law enforcement, courts, warehouse-like detention buildings and re-purposed daycare centers,” while AFP (6/22, Macor, Handley, Handley) added that “the fate of 2,300 children wrested from their parents at the US border with Mexico remained unclear Friday” as “conflicting messages were contributing to a sense of chaos in the handling of the crisis.”

On MSNBC’s Morning Joe (6/22, 1.02M), Mika Brzezinski said in the that wake of Trump’s executive order, “now we have...chaos,” and “the mystery behind where some of these children are. Where some of these babies are. Where the girls are. Who’s with them. What’s happening to them? Will some never see their parents again? I think there’s some distinct possibilities that that’s possible. They may never see their families again.”

The Chicago Tribune (6/22, Briscoe, 2.37M) reported that the Heartland Alliance, a Chicago nonprofit, “said Friday it is housing 66 [im]migrant children who have been separated from their parents in the past six weeks,” and “after days of staying out of the political controversy surrounding...Trump’s immigration policy, Heartland officials directly condemned the practice of separating children from their parents at the United States’ southern border while asking for support from the community while they look after the minors in their care.” Heartland Alliance President Evelyn Diaz warned that reuniting the children with their families is “like [going] on a scavenger hunt.”

The AP (6/22, Fox) and Miami Herald (6/22, Sweet, Medina, 1.07M) described a visit to the

Homestead Temporary Shelter for Unaccompanied Children. The Herald said that the facility is “under such tight control that Sen. Bill Nelson, Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz and other government officials were turned away on Tuesday,” but “Friday’s guided, one-hour tour seemed to be an attempt to dispel this idea.” The Herald added that “cellphones and audio or video recording equipment were prohibited,” and HHS spokesman Mark Weber said that this policy is a matter of protecting the privacy of minors in the shelters.

Also covering the story were an ABC World News Tonight (6/22, story 2, 3:10, Muir, 7.47M) segment, the Wall Street Journal (6/22, Calvert, Levitz, Subscription Publication, 6.13M), the AP (6/24, Thomas, Superville) the Washington Post (6/21, Hsu, 15.68M), The Hill (6/22, Bowden, 2.71M), Newsweek (6/23, Zhao, 2.18M), the Boston Globe (6/22, Johnson, 945K), AFP (6/23), the Daily Caller (6/23, Cohen, 420K), and Axios (6/22, Britzky, 2.49M).

Trump Says Undocumented Immigrants Should Not Be Allowed Due-Process Rights.

In a front-page article, the Washington Post (6/24, A1, Rucker, Weigel, 15.68M) reports that on Sunday, President Trump “explicitly advocated depriving undocumented immigrants of their due-process rights, arguing that people who cross the border into the United States illegally must immediately be deported without trial – and sowing more confusion among Republicans ahead of a planned immigration vote this week.” He tweeted, “We cannot allow all of these people to invade our Country,” adding, “When somebody comes in, we must immediately, with no Judges or Court Cases, bring them back from where they came. Our system is a mockery to good immigration policy and Law and Order. Most children come without parents.”

NBC Nightly News (6/24, lead story, 2:40, Snow, 8.26M) reported in its lead story, “Since the day he announced his candidacy, President Trump promised a tough line on immigration and border security,” and “this morning on Twitter, he took it to a new level” by “deriding current US immigration policy as, quote, laughed at all over the world. And calling for people who enter the US illegally to be immediately sent back without seeing a judge.” The segment adds, “The President’s edict fails to recognize constitutional due process” and “long established case law that grants that protection to non-citizens.”

USA Today (6/24, Bacon, 11.4M) reports Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) responded to the comments, saying, “That’s not what our country stands for. ... We do have a system of laws.”

On its front page, the New York Times (6/24, A1, Rogers, Stolberg, Subscription Publication, 19.33M) reports that the president’s “aggressive attack” was “another twist in a head-spinning series of developments on immigration since the administration announced a ‘zero tolerance’ policy two months ago.”

Bloomberg News (6/24, Epstein, 4.46M) reports that this “stepped-up rhetoric came after the administration announced a series of steps to reunite families that had been separated at the border under a now-abandoned policy, and drew a sharp retort from the American Civil Liberties Union.” Omar Jadwat, director of the ACLU’s Immigrants Rights Project, stated, “What President Trump has suggested here is both illegal and unconstitutional. ... Any official who has sworn an oath to uphold the Constitution and laws should disavow it unequivocally.” On Sunday, Rep. Luis Gutierrez (D-IL) said Trump’s “choice of words was being used to gin up his supporters for the mid-terms.”

Reuters (6/24, Chiacu, Lynch) reports that since the President backed away from his policy of separating immigrant children from their parents, he “has redoubled his criticism of U.S. immigration laws on Twitter and in speeches where he likened illegal immigrants to invaders trying to ‘break into’ the country.”

The Newark (NJ) Star-Ledger (6/24, Salant, 1.58M) reports Sen. Angus King (I-ME) made the point on NBC’s “Meet the Press” that “people coming to claim asylum are not illegal immigrants,” rather, “under the law, they have a right to establish their claim of asylum, that they’re in a legitimate fear for their life, that they’re fleeing persecution in their home country.”

Also covering the story are the AP (6/24), another article in the AP (6/24, Superville), NBC News (6/24, Silva, 5.76M), Politico (6/24, Griffiths, 3.51M), The Hill (6/24, Thomsen, 2.71M), the Miami Herald (6/24, Madan, 1.07M), TIME (6/24, Abramson, 19.27M), and the Washington Examiner (6/24, Williams, 340K).

GOP Leaders Worried Trump’s Tweets Will Derail Efforts To Pass Immigration Bill.

The AP (6/24, Fram) reports that Republican apprehension over President Trump’s “next tweet and fear of riling conservative voters are

undermining GOP leaders' election-year struggle to shove an immigration bill through the House this week, leaving their prospects dubious." Republican leaders are "trying to finally secure the votes they need for their wide-ranging bill with tweaks they hope will goose support from the GOP's dueling conservative and moderate wings. But more importantly, wavering Republicans want Trump to provide political cover for immigration legislation that's despised by hard-right voters."

ABC World News Tonight (6/24, story 3, 1:15, Johnson, 14.63M) reported, "Republican lawmakers, set to vote on immigration reform bills this week that will fail to pass without Democratic support, [are] asking the President to cool his tough talk."

Lawmaker Says Trump Is "100 Percent" Behind House Immigration Measure. USA Today (6/24, Kelly, 11.4M) reports House Homeland Security Chairman Michael McCaul (R-TX) said Sunday that President Trump remains "100 percent" behind a compromise House immigration bill, "despite Trump saying last week that Congress should give up its legislative efforts until after the election in November." The article says McCaul and House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) are pushing "a bill that would provide a pathway to citizenship for about 1.8 million young immigrants brought to the USA as children, provide about \$23 billion for a border wall and place limits on legal immigration." In addition, the measure "would allow children and their parents to remain together at detention centers if they're caught crossing the border illegally." The piece adds that if the bill does not pass, "the House will probably take up a narrow measure that would stop federal officials from separating children from their parents."

The CBS Weekend News (6/24, story 3, 2:10, Quijano, 5.32M) reported, "With support from President Trump, Republican Congressman Michael McCaul plans to put his so called Consensus Immigration Bill up for vote in the House soon." The segment added, "Its chances of passing, though, are slim."

ABC World News Tonight (6/24, story 5, 0:30, Johnson, 14.63M) reported, "There's a vote on a compromise bill Tuesday, but that bill is unlikely to pass." Tara Palmieri added, "Sources are telling me Republicans are working on a more narrow bill that will cancel the 20-day cap on detention for children so they can stay with their parents. But

even that bill is unlikely to get much support from Democrats."

The Wall Street Journal (6/24, Hughes, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) reports that if the bill fails to pass, it will highlight the lack of consensus among Republicans on how to handle immigration.

Bloomberg News (6/22, House, Edgerton, Dopp, 4.46M), The Hill (6/24, Mitchell, 2.71M), and Politico (6/24, Tamborrino, 3.51M) also cover the story.

Lankford Says Trump Administration Knows Where Every Separated Immigrant Is Located. Politico (6/24, Tamborrino, 3.51M) reports that on NBC's "Meet the Press," Sen. James Lankford (R-OK) was asked "whether the Trump administration had been supplying Congress with specific details on children separated at the border resulting from its 'zero tolerance' effort, Lankford told Todd the administration knew where every child was located." He stated, "Let me clarify this. ... We know where every single child is." Lankford added, "These are career professionals that work with HHS, and that work with DHS in Customs and Border Patrol and ICE – these are not political appointees. ... These are career folks. They know where every child is, to be able to connect them to their parent or their relative that came."

The Washington Times (6/24, Richardson, 460K) and the Washington Examiner (6/24, Lim, 340K) also cover the story.

Lawmakers Say Conditions At Texas Shelter Are "Livable," But Express Concern About Reunification Of Immigrant Families. Bloomberg News (6/23, Epstein, 4.46M) reported that several lawmakers "visited what's been called a tent city for unaccompanied immigrant children" in Tornillo, Texas on Saturday and described conditions there as being "livable, yet voiced concerns about what's next for them amid confusion about the family reunification process." Sen. Tom Udall (D-NM) said that he is "very worried that we're headed from one humanitarian crisis to another," and urged Attorney General Jeff Sessions, HHS Secretary Alex Azar, and Homeland Security Secretary Nielsen to "give us a plan" outlining how families will be reunited. Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) added that the visit "probably raised more questions than it answered." The article added that "some two dozen Democratic House lawmakers visited a border detention center in McAllen, Texas, on

Saturday, marking the second weekend in a row that Democrats have toured the facility to examine conditions and the treatment of immigrants held there.”

Some Florida State, Local Lawmakers Not Allowed To Visit Homestead Shelter. The Miami Herald (6/23, Vassolo, Flechas, 1.07M) reported that on Saturday, Reps. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL), Frederica Wilson (D-FL), Ted Deutch (D-FL), and Darren Soto (D-FL) were given a tour of the Homestead shelter which houses 1,179 immigrant children. The article said five Miami-Dade and state elected officials sought to accompany them, but were denied entry and told they need to provide two weeks’ notice before a visit could be approved. Mark Weber, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs at HHS, “told the lawmakers that HHS needed more notice to accommodate their requests. He said the lawmakers could tour the facility at a later date.”

Nelson, Wasserman Schultz Say Homestead Shelter Is Taking Good Care Of Immigrant Children. The Fort Myers (FL) News-Press (6/23, 208K) reported that “70 migrant children forcibly taken from their parents at the U.S.-Mexico border are in good hands in Homestead, Democratic leaders led by U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson and Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz concluded Saturday after touring the shelter.” Wasserman Schultz said, “It is inexplicable to me why Sen. Nelson and I were not allowed to see it when we asked on Tuesday.” For his part, Nelson stated, “The facilities are nice. ... The question is the reunification of the 2,300 children across the country separated from their parents. How long will they be detained?”

Lee Says It Was “Heart-Wrenching” To Visit Immigrant Facility In McAllen, Texas. The Hill (6/24, Samuels, 2.71M) reports that on Sunday, Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA) “compared holding facilities for [im]migrant families to prisons.” Discussing her tour of a facility in McAllen, TX on CNN’s “State of the Union,” Lee said, “It was heart-wrenching. The images that we see on the media really speak volumes to what’s taking place but when you see it in person it’s horrific.” She “said she saw a boy and a girl, each about 3 years old, crying in cells by themselves.”

Rubio Says Congress Can Take Action To Keep Immigrant Families Together. The AP (6/22) reported that on Friday, Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL) “visited a Miami-area facility housing more than 1,000 teenage migrants.” Following the visit,

Rubio “said he didn’t speak to any of the children inside the Homestead complex because of privacy regulations.” Rubio acknowledged that “splitting up families at the border was ‘a terrible situation’ but the U.S. doesn’t have the money or the capacity to hold families together when they’re detained by immigration authorities.” He added that Congress would have to take action to keep immigrant families together.

Christie Blames DOJ For Administration’s Handling Of Zero Tolerance Policy. The Hill (6/24, Samuels, 2.71M) reports that on Sunday, Chris Christie blamed “the Department of Justice (DOJ) for the Trump administration’s handling of its ‘zero tolerance’ policy and the subsequent separation of [im]migrant families that prompted overwhelming backlash in the weeks since its implementation.” On ABC’s “This Week,” Christie said, “I think one of the things that hasn’t been talked about this week, George (Stephanopoulos), is the president was enormously ill served by the Department of Justice.” He added, “If the attorney general come in and says to the president, ‘I want you to do a zero tolerance policy, but let me just tell you, we don’t have enough judges to handle the cases, we don’t have enough prosecutors to bring the cases, and we don’t have enough detention facilities to legally detain the people that we’re going to show zero tolerance to,’ the president would have never approved this.”

New York Governor Fighting Administration Over Immigration Policy. In an article that examined New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s (D) growing role in fighting the Administration on its immigration policy, the New York Times (6/22, McKinley, Subscription Publication, 19.33M) reported that he sent a letter to HHS Secretary Alex Azar on Friday “asking for information on the 345 separated children the state has managed to count thus far.” The Times conceded Cuomo “may have originally seemed to some to have been driven by political opportunism,” but his “efforts on behalf of the [im]migrant children have earned praise from advocates, who have been equally outspoken about the president’s so-called ‘zero tolerance’ policy of separating children.”

The Washington Times (6/22, Muñoz, 460K) reported that on Friday, Cuomo “slammed the Department of Health and Human Services on Friday, claiming he has not been given enough information on the immigration children

transported to his state.” He said, “I know nothing from HHS. All I know is what I’m putting together.”

The AP (6/22, Carola) reported that Cuomo also said on Friday that some of the separated immigrant children who have been sent to New York “need psychological counseling for the traumatizing ordeal.” The governor described his visit to one shelter “as ‘troubling’ during the NY1 interview. He said the facility is housing children ages about 11 to 18, with some of them ‘in a state of shock’ and requiring ‘serious significant psychological assistance.’”

More Immigrant Children Being Sent To New York City Even As Some Are Reunited With Families. The New York Daily News (6/22, McShane, Ruscoe, Hussain, 3.71M) reported that on Friday, officials in New York City “braced...for a new surge of migrant children coming to the city from the Mexican border – even as 100 were already reunited with their parents.” Rep. Adriano Espaillat (D-NY) said local officials “were told ‘there will be a growing number of unaccompanied minors coming in.’” The article added that about 100 children sent to facilities in Harlem had “already been...returned to their families.”

New York Officials Unable To Determine How Many Immigrant Children Have Been Sent To The State. The New York Times (6/22, Robbins, Correal, Subscription Publication, 19.33M) reported that as of Friday, “officials in New York still did not have answers to even the most basic questions about the children who had been separated from their parents at the southern border and relocated 2,000 miles away: How many were there, and where had they been placed?” Both Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo (D) and Mayor Bill de Blasio (D) wrote letters to HHS seeking those answers. The article added that this “confusion underscored just how chaotic the situation was, with lawyers frantically scrambling to figure out how to represent the children, and Cayuga, which had the most children, urgently looking for staff and asking for more Spanish-speaking volunteers to serve as foster parents.”

Sen. Schumer Calls For Appointment Of Immigration Czar To Reunite Children. The New York Daily News (6/24, Gibson, 3.71M) reports Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY) called on the Trump Administration Sunday to appoint an immigration czar to handle reunification of families. Schumer explained, “What we found out of over the years is when there are separate

agencies trying to solve a single problem it works slowly at best, and sometimes doesn’t work at all.”

Newsday (NY) (6/24, O’Keeffe, 1.52M) reports Schumer said, “Three different agencies, three different Cabinet members in charge.” He added, “No one is really in charge if there are three people in charge. We need one person in charge.”

Proposed New York State Bill Would Allow Undocumented Immigrants Facing Deportation To Select Legal Guardians For Their Children. The New York Daily News (6/22, Lovett, 3.71M) reported, “Undocumented immigrant parents facing possible deportation from New York would be able to choose a guardian to care for their kids under a bill that won final approval in the Legislature last week.” The measure “would expand the standby guardianship law created in the 1980s during the AIDS crisis that has mainly been used by parents diagnosed with a terminal illness to transfer guardianship of their kids to someone they know and trust.”

Immigrants Reportedly Asked To Sign Voluntary Deportation Documents In Exchange For Being Reunited With Children. The Hill (6/24, Samuels, 2.71M) reports that Central American immigrants who have been detained and “separated from their children have been told they can reunite with them if they agree to voluntarily deportations, The Texas Tribune reported Sunday.” The Tribune, citing a man from Honduras and two immigration attorneys, said “the migrants have been told they would be reunited with their children at an airport if they agree to sign off on deportations.” The man “said he gave up his asylum case and signed the paperwork in an effort to reunite with his 6-year-old daughter,” but “he’s now trying to rescind his agreement and fight his case in court.” The article adds that lawmakers from both parties “have called family separations ‘cruel’ and ‘inhuman.’”

Immigrants Deported Without Their Children Describe Their “Anguish.” AFP (6/24) reports that Central American immigrants “deported from the US without their children spoke of their anguish at seeing their families split under President Donald Trump’s ‘zero tolerance’ approach Saturday, as protesters kept up the pressure against the ‘barbaric’ policy.” So far, about 500 immigrant children have been reunited with family members. But it remains to be seen “how quickly the rest of the reunifications can be carried out.” Attorneys “working to bring families

back together said they were struggling through a labyrinthine process – while more [im]migrants continue to arrive.”

The Corpus Christi (TX) Caller-Times (6/24, Alvarado, 126K) reports that the Department of Homeland Security and HHS issued a news release which explained that “separate deportations are a choice given to parents.” It stated, “A parent who is ordered removed from the U.S. may request that his or her minor child accompany them. ... It should be noted that in the past many parents have elected to be removed without their children.”

Detention, Process Of Reunification Can Be Psychologically Traumatic For Separated Immigrant Children, Experts Warn. The New York Times (6/22, Carey, Subscription Publication, 19.33M) reported, “The chaotic process of reuniting thousands of migrant children and parents separated by the Trump administration’s ‘zero tolerance’ policy poses great psychological risks, both short- and long-term, mental health experts said on Friday.” They also warned that “holding those families indefinitely while they await legal proceedings” poses similar risks. The article added, “The administration has no clear plan to reunite migrant families, which is sure to carry a psychological price for migrant parents and more than 2,300 children separated from them at the border in recent months.” About 400 of these children are under the age of 12, and many are toddlers.

NBC Nightly News (6/24, story 3, 1:40, Snow, 8.26M) reported, “Child psychologists...say reunifications can be as fraught as the separation itself.”

On its front page, the Washington Post (6/24, A1, Sacchetti, Sieff, Fisher, 15.68M) reports that the “children who were forcibly separated from their parents at the border by the United States government are all over the country now, in Michigan and Maryland, in foster homes in California and shelters in Virginia, in cold, institutional settings with adults who are not permitted to touch them or with foster parents who do not speak Spanish but who hug them when they cry.” The Post says, “The children have been through hell. ... And now they live and wait in unfamiliar places: big American suburban houses where no one speaks their language; a locked shelter on a dusty road where they spend little time outside; a converted Walmart where each morning they are required to stand and recite the

Pledge of Allegiance, in English, to the country that holds them apart from their parents.”

The Atlantic (6/22, Khazan, 3.08M) reported that immigrant children separated from their parents “still face great turmoil, beyond the stress of the immigration experience itself,” in spite of President Trump’s new executive order. Dr. Colleen Kraft, president of the American Academy of Pediatrics, warned that such “trauma can permanently affect the brains of these children, and potentially their long-term development,” according to the article. Kraft, who visited one of the shelters overseen by HHS’ Office of Refugee Resettlement, “described seeing a room full of toddlers that was ‘eerily silent,’” with the exception of “one little girl, who was ‘sobbing and wailing and beating her fists on the mat.’” A staff worker attempted “to comfort her with books and toys, but she wasn’t allowed to pick her up or touch her,” Kraft said.”

Journalists Allowed To Tour Homestead Shelter For Immigrant Children On Friday. The AP (6/22, Fox) reported that on Friday, Administration officials “provided a glimpse...into a South Florida facility housing more than 1,000 teenage migrants, seeking to dispel any suggestions that children are being mistreated.” The article said, “Private contractors who run the Homestead Temporary Shelter for Unaccompanied Children, about 25 miles (42 kilometers) southwest of Miami, showed journalists around the campus like-complex for about an hour.” Reporters were not allowed “to interview the children, and no cameras or recorders of any kind were allowed inside.” They were shown “dorm-style buildings where children sleep up to 12 per room in steel-framed bunk beds, and warehouse-sized, air-conditioned white tents where minors attend classes and watch movies.”

Majority Of Americans Say Treatment Of Immigrants At The US-Mexico Border Will Affect Their Vote In The Midterms. The Hill (6/24, Samuels, 2.71M) reports in its “Blog Briefing Room” that some “60 percent of Americans say the treatment of migrant families arriving at the U.S.-Mexico border is important to their vote in this year’s midterms, according to a new” CBS News/YouGov poll. Data show “one-third of Americans indicated the issue will be very important to their vote.” In addition, 84 percent of Democrats “said the issue will be important to

their vote, while 43 percent of Republicans said the same.”

Trump Administration Seeks To Expand Use Of Family Detention For Immigrants With Children. The AP (6/23, Taxin) reported, “The Trump administration is calling for the expanded use of family detention for immigrant parents and children who are stopped along the U.S.-Mexico border, a move decried by advocates as a cruel and ineffective attempt to deter families from coming to the United States.” On Friday, immigration authorities said “they may seek up to 15,000 beds to detain families. The Justice Department has also asked a federal court in California to allow children to be detained longer and in facilities that don’t require state licensing while they await immigration court proceedings.”

HHS Considering Using Former Japanese-American Internment Camp To House Immigrant Children. The AP (6/22, Grabenstein) reported that some “75 years after federal officials shuttered a Japanese-American internment camp in Rohwer, Arkansas, the Trump administration is examining a site about 2 miles away as a potential temporary shelter for immigrant children.” HHS “said Thursday that the government is considering an unused Department of Agriculture property in nearby Kelso as an immigrant shelter, as well as a possible shelter at Little Rock Air Force Base.”

Trump Administration Urged To Seek Alternatives To Holding Immigrant Families In Detention. TIME (6/22, Rhodan, 19.27M) reported now that President Trump has reversed his policy of separating immigrant families, his “administration is pursuing another option: holding families together in detention centers.” However, “immigrant advocates, who note that approach has already faced successful legal challenges in the past, argue that there are other alternatives that the Trump Administration isn’t considering, including one program with an extremely high success rate that Trump already ended.” The article added, “One option is to use a combination of GPS tracking and home visits to keep tabs on immigrants who have been picked up, allowing them to stay out of detention while their case works through the legal system.”

More Immigrants Entering The US As Administration Begins Effort To Reunite Separated Families. The AP (6/23, Weissert, Spagat) reported that the Trump Administration’s zero tolerance policy resulted in some 2,300 children being separated from their parents.

President Trump reversed the policy following an international “outcry.” The article said it remains unclear “how many asylum-seekers are still entering the country, how many are being detained as families, and how many are being released. Nor it is known how long it will take for all parents and guardians to be reunited with their children.”

Some Immigrant Children Separated From Parents Are Being Sent To Minnesota. The Minneapolis Star Tribune (6/22, Serres, Smith, 1.16M) reported that “a small number of unaccompanied migrant children...have arrived in Minnesota since the federal government began taking a harder line against illegal border crossings.” The article added, “They are...the first in an expected surge of unaccompanied minors, forcibly removed from their parents, who are now making their way to distant relatives in Minnesota and surrounding states.” It remains to be seen “how many of the children will end up in Minnesota, but immigration law experts say the numbers could reach into the dozens by this fall.”

California Attorney Representing Dozens Of Separated Immigrant Mothers, Children. The Arizona Republic (6/23, Náñez, 1.21M) reported that attorney Michael Avenatti said he is “representing about 60 mothers and 70 children separated at the border under the Trump administration’s zero-tolerance border policy.” The article said Avenatti, the “California attorney who became a regular on news talk shows after representing porn star Stormy Daniels in her legal battle with President Donald Trump, is among a growing number of attorneys nationwide attempting to reunite children with their parents.”

Protesters Asked To Not Demonstrate In Front Of Shelters Housing Immigrant Children. Newsday (NY) (6/22, Griffith, Camargo, 1.52M) reported, “Immigration and child welfare advocates are asking protesters not to demonstrate outside shelters housing migrant children for fear of distressing them.” The article said that recently, “protesters gathered at LaGuardia Airport and some shelters around the country that are holding children who have been separated from their families at the U.S.-Mexico border.” But on Friday, the New York Immigration Coalition urged the public to “refrain from such demonstrations, even if they aim to show support for the children.”

HHS, Other Federal Workers Agonized Over Separations Of Immigrant Families. In

interviews with the New York Times (6/23, Dickerson, Subscription Publication, 19.33M), "more than a dozen employees" at Immigration and Customs Enforcement, US Customs and Border Protection, and the Department of Health and Human Services "said they were feeling alienated and exhausted after being ordered to carry out, then halt, the separations – as well as deal with the fallout." The article said the federal employees "agonized" over enforcing the policy, and while "some officials supported the seizing of children from their migrant parents under orders from the White House, others felt helpless in their cubicles, shed tears and went home wracked with guilt." The piece added that regardless of "whether they endorsed the president's policy or abhorred it, employees across the federal system expressed frustration that major changes came without advance notice." The article also said that at HHS, "the suspension of the policy prompted a scramble to begin reuniting parents and children." An unnamed official said, "The reaction was a little bit of happiness but not glee or anything. ... It was like 'O.K., how do we get them back to their parents?'"

Protesters Criticize Administration's Immigration Policies As HHS Moves To Reunite Separated Families. The AP (6/23, Rosenblatt) reported, "From New York City to San Diego on Saturday, thousands of protesters demonstrated against the Trump administration's immigration policies." Rallies promoting the "Keep Families Together" slogan "took place in California, Texas, and New York, as well as in other states, as droves of people focused the protest around the separation of families at the U.S.-Mexico border." On Saturday, HHS spokesperson Evelyn J. Stauffer said HHS Secretary Alex Azar "is bringing to bear all the relevant resources of the department in order to assist in the reunification or placement of unaccompanied alien children and teenagers with a parent or appropriate sponsor."

The Dallas Morning News (6/23, Manrique, 1.05M) reported, "Calls to end the Trump administration's 'zero-tolerance' crackdown on migrant families escalated Saturday when protesters from Dallas and other cities briefly blocked an immigration bus, while other civil rights leaders launched a nationwide fast." Protesters were chanting, "Set them free!"

The San Diego Union-Tribune (6/23, Weisberg, Diehl, Davis, 664K) reported that

thousands demonstrated "in downtown San Diego and at the border Saturday to protest the Trump administration's illegal immigration crackdown that has resulted in children being separated from their parents." The article said these protests, "among several that unfolded nationwide, capped a turbulent week in which the president agreed to halt family separations but detain families together – a directive that left border authorities unsure of how to proceed with future arrests."

Connecticut Offers State Resources To Reunite Families. The AP (6/24) reports that in a letter to HHS Secretary Alex M. Azar, Connecticut Gov. Dannel Malloy (D) is "offering state resources to help the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services with migrant children separated from their parents."

California Regulators To Re-Inspect Facilities Where Separated Immigrant Children Are Housed. The San Jose (CA) Mercury News (6/23, Esquivel, Bermudez, Agrawal, 552K) reported that on Saturday, California regulators said "they will immediately begin inspections at facilities where scores of immigrant children who were separated from their parents at the U.S.-Mexico border under a Trump administration crackdown are being held." According to Michael Weston, a spokesman for the Department of Social Services, "state officials were re-inspecting facilities run by groups that have federal contracts to house unaccompanied children. The inspections were to begin Saturday, and were initially focused on providers that work with the youngest children, he said."

Pentagon Preparing Two Bases To House Immigrants. The AP (6/25, Baldor) reports Defense Secretary Jim Mattis announced that the Department of Defense is preparing to construct temporary camps for immigrants at two unnamed military bases. The AP adds that the Department of Health and Human Services requested the temporary shelters and will operate them.

The Hill (6/24, Conradis, 2.71M) reports Secretary Mattis said, "The details are being worked out ... about exactly how much capacity they need at the two bases, what other kinds of facilities they need built." The Boston Globe (6/25, 945K) reports the Pentagon "had initially talked about four potential bases, but Mattis indicated the number is now two."

Sen. Elizabeth Warren Tours Immigration Center And Says "It's A Disturbing Picture." The Hill (6/24, Manchester, 2.71M) reports Sen.

Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) toured an immigration center in McAllen, Texas on Sunday, saying it painted a “disturbing picture.” She said, “There are children by themselves” and “I saw a six-month-old baby, little girls, little boys.” She added, “There are mothers with their babies, with small children. Family units are together if it’s a very small child, but little girls who are 12 years old are taken away from the rest of their families and held separately.” Warren also said, “They’re all lying on concrete floors in cages. There’s just no other way to describe it.”

Sen. Lankford Calls Out Trump Administration’s Lack Of Transparency On Immigration. The Hill (6/24, Mitchell, 2.71M) reports Sen. James Lankford (R-OK) said on “Meet the Press” that the Trump Administration has not been transparent about its policy on immigrants on the US-Mexico border. He said of the lack of transparency, “Now this has been one of the great frustrations.” Lankford defended the Administration’s care for children in its custody, saying, “These are career professionals that work with [the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)] ... They know where every child is to be able to connect them to their parent or their relative that came. But HHS often puts them in foster care across several states because they can’t handle the load on the southern border.”

Teenager Missing After Walking Away From Shelter In Brownsville, Texas. The New York Times (6/24, Zaveri, Fernandez, Subscription Publication, 19.33M) reports a 15-year-old immigrant boy who was being sheltered in a former Walmart in Brownsville, Texas “disappeared into the borderland” Saturday after he “walked off its premises.” The news came as officials from Southwest Key “sought to reassure members of Congress and the news media who had toured the center that the roughly 1,500 boys living there, aged 10 to 17, were well cared for and closely monitored.” Jeff Eller, a spokesman for the company, “said on Sunday it could not legally require children to stay on the premises if they sought to leave.”

However, NBC News (6/24, 5.76M) reports on its website that the boy is now in Mexico, “according to a source with direct knowledge of the incident.”

Brazilian Mother Struggles With US Red Tape To Reunite With Her Son. The New York Times (6/24, Jordan, Subscription Publication, 19.33M) reports on a Brazilian mother who was

separated from her nine-year-old son after they turned themselves in at the United States border. Her son was sent to Chicago while she was released to join relatives in Hyannis, Massachusetts. The Times reports, “While some of the children have been reunited with their parents in recent days, interviews with immigration lawyers and government officials suggest that most of the children are likely to remain parked in group facilities or foster homes for some time to come.” The piece describes her struggles with the “red tape” of trying to reunite her family.

New York City’s Public Hospitals Have Treated 12 Immigrant Children Separated From Their Parents And Placed In Foster Care. Crain’s New York Business (6/22, LaMantia, 233K) reported NYC Health & Hospital CEO Dr. Mitchell Katz said that 12 immigrant children who were placed in foster care after being separated from their parents have been treated at North Central Bronx Hospital and Bellevue. Dr. Daran Kaufman, the director of pediatric emergency services at North Central Bronx, said the patients were treated for different conditions including asthma, constipation, and depression.

TIME (6/22, Ducharme, 19.27M) reported as the children arrive at the hospitals, physicians “say they are doing whatever they can to ease their transition into the United States.” Kaufman also said, “It’s been quite trying to see these children coming into the emergency room without their parents and seeing how sad and withdrawn they are given what’s happened.”

Advocates In Texas Question Plan To Reunite Immigrant Families. The Arizona Republic (6/24, 1.21M) reports the departments of Homeland Security and Health and Human Services “announced late Saturday that they had established a process to ensure family members know the location of their children, have regular communication and can be reunited. ‘This process is well coordinated,’ the statement said.” The Texas Civil Rights Project, “which has also interviewed separated families at the border, said Sunday that the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights had formally demanded details on the Trump administration’s handling of family separation and reunification.”

More Commentary. EJ Dionne, Jr., writes in the Washington Post (6/24, 15.68M) that “President Trump has a special animus toward immigrants, but the children of those crossing our borders are not the only vulnerable people in his

sights” because the Administration is “waging a less visible war on our nation’s poorest citizens, with the complicity of its Republican allies in Congress.” Dionne describes the “latest attacks on programs that have long commanded bipartisan support” such as House approval of legislation that would impose additional work requirements on recipients of food stamps. Dionne writes, “It’s hard to escape the sense that this is about decimating help for the least fortunate.”

In an editorial, the New York Times (6/23, Subscription Publication, 19.33M) blames Republicans for creating the circumstances under which “a president of their party felt he was enforcing its principles by breaking apart families and caging children.” While admitting “Trump inherited a broken immigration system,” the Times adds “there is also no question that he prefers ranting about its brokenness to making even a token effort at fixing it. And he has even less interest in addressing the root causes of migrant families flocking to the border.” The Times concludes Republican lawmakers “owe it to the American people to help keep him in check.”

Novelist Oscar Cásares wrote in the Washington Post (6/22, 15.68M) about listening to “seven minutes of an audio recording of small children crying for their mommies and daddies” several times. He explained, “Anyone who’s ever cared for a small child, sick or hurt or scared, knows that when the child cries, all else pretty much ceases to exist.”

In an editorial, the Washington Post (6/23, 15.68M) wrote that in the days since President Trump signed an executive order “supposedly barring the routine practice of taking children from parents who illegally cross the border from Mexico,” many of the “2,500 children separated from their parents since the administration started implementing its zero-tolerance policy in the spring remain in shelters and foster homes all over the country.” The Post added that officials in the Administration “appear to have devoted little thought or effort to reunifying families, a process that even under the best of circumstances has legal and logistical challenges.” The editorial urges Republicans in Congress to find “a humane solution to the humanitarian crisis that Mr. Trump has created.”

Van Jones wrote for CNN (6/23, 82.6M) on its website that in order to ensure that the “thousands of migrant children who have been

taken from their families” are reunited with their parents, President Trump “must appoint a ‘Family Reunification Czar’ immediately.” Jones added, “As it stands, many migrant parents have little reassurance that they will quickly find their kids.” He recommended, “There needs to be one person in charge of this effort to put these families back together. And that role cannot be symbolic.”

Scott Simon wrote NPR (6/23, 3.55M) that “public figures, including the pope, bishops, senators of both parties, and every living spouse of a president spoke out against the Trump administration policy that separated more than 2,300 children crossing the border from their families.” Simon emphasized the effect of hearing the children’s cries during news coverage and concluded, “But we know — and must find a way to report — about the children and families who are still locked up and being kept apart. There are still cries to be heard.”

EJ Montini wrote in the Arizona Republic (6/23, 1.21M) that the Trump Administration’ Department of Health and Human Services may have “lost” as many as 6,000 unaccompanied children who were taken into custody at the border, according to reporters from McClatchy news service. He asks, “How is it that we don’t have a program to adequately keep track of these children and the people with whom we place them?”

Margaret Talbot writes in the New Yorker (6/24, 5.23M) that the “theatre of cruelty unfolding at the southern border last week was the purest distillation yet of what it means to be governed by a President with no moral center.” She continues, “Administration officials portray the challenges at the border in stark, binary terms: either we treat all border crossers, including asylum seekers, as dangerous criminals to be incarcerated or we wantonly open the gates to all the world,” adding, “There is, of course, a middle path, providing workable and humane alternatives to detention.”

Van Newkirk wrote in The Atlantic (6/23, 3.08M) to analyze recent statements by Attorney General Jeff Sessions because they reveal that “Trumpism might be defined mostly by a lack of conviction and a corresponding unwillingness to ever own up to any one policy decision.” Newkirk added, “For the thousands of families torn apart by zero tolerance—and some perhaps permanently so—and for the children detained and subject to psychologically and physically harmful

conditions, there's no remedy for the Trump administration's blunder."

Valeria Luiselli wrote in the New York Times (6/23, Subscription Publication, 19.33M) to describe how her 6-year-old daughter perceives the election and Administration of President Trump, observing, "No matter their story and immigration status, shame and guilt are what Hispanic children are taught to feel in America." Luiselli explains a Brooklyn class that was studying Don Quixote and argues, "Perhaps America – not the real America, but that white-only, English-only America – does indeed have a reason to fear the new generation of Hispanic children, these new Quixotes. They are beautiful, brilliant, well-educated and multilingual. And they have had enough."

Stephanie Carnes wrote in the Huffington Post (6/22, 4.32M) that "while its cruel ploy of tearing children away from their parents lasted a month and a half or so – that we know of – the long-term damage done to those children will endure far longer." Carnes describes her work as a clinician at a shelter program funded by the Office of Refugee Resettlement in 2015 "during the surge of unaccompanied children arriving from Central America." She describes what she saw during that time and concluded, "One way or the other, the effects of this weekslong injustice will reverberate for years, if not decades."

Columnist Rochelle Riley wrote in the Detroit Free Press (6/23, 1.21M) that it "could be so simple" to reunite separated immigrant children being housed in Michigan that "even Donald Trump could do it." DHHS officials in Michigan "said the state has no authority over the children being warehoused here because they are classified as illegal immigrants." However, "if the federal government changes their status to unaccompanied refugees, the state could enter them into the foster care system, provide services and reunite them with their families." Riley said this could also apply to other states.

Benjamin Hart writes in the Daily Intelligencer (NY) (6/24, 551K) that when President Trump issued his executive order last week, "he made it clear that the rest of his severe border policy would remain in place." However, "there's a big legal roadblock standing in the way of Trump's vision 'zero tolerance' vision: the Flores settlement, a 1997 consent decree requiring that children who cross the border accompanied by their parents must be released within 20 days."

Valerie Richardson writes in the Washington Times (6/24, 460K) that according to a CBS News/YouGov tracking poll, 53 percent of US adults said they "strongly" opposed the Trump Administration's policy of separating parents from their children on the border. The poll found, however, that 53 percent of Democrats said that the policy would not change how they vote. Richardson points out, "The results indicate that voters remain sharply divided and firmly entrenched on issues related to immigration, and that the recent pitched debate and feverish news coverage surrounding family separation haven't changed matters."

THE SECRETARY IN THE NEWS

Planned Parenthood Affiliates Sue HHS For Abstinence-Only Efforts On Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program.

The AP (6/22, Geranios) reported that "several affiliates" of Planned Parenthood sued the US Department of Health and Human Services on Friday over its efforts to impose an abstinence-only focus on its Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program. The lawsuits were filed in federal courts in New York City and Spokane, Washington, by four different Planned Parenthood affiliates covering New York City and the states of Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Nebraska and Washington. In addition to the agency, the lawsuits name as defendants HHS Secretary Alex Azar and Valerie Huber, chief of staff for the Office of Assistant Secretary of Health.

The Hill (6/22, Hellmann, 2.71M) reported that Planned Parenthood argues in its lawsuit that the funding opportunity announcement issued by HHS that emphasize abstinence education "goes against congressional intent for the program" because it does not require the use of programs that have been "proven effective through rigorous evaluation."

The Washington Examiner (6/22, Leonard, 340K) also covered the story.

CMS Delays Update To Hospital Star Rating System.

Modern Healthcare (6/23, Castellucci, Subscription Publication, 239K) reported that last week "for the third time," the CMS "put off...an update of its overall hospital star ratings after hospitals raised concerns about the methodology." The article said "the decision to delay fits with HHS Secretary Alex Azar's price

transparency goals,” and wrote that the CMS’ proposed hospital inpatient payment rule would require hospitals to publish online a list of their standard charges.

UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN

ORR Director Mum On Administration’s Immigration Policy.

Colby Itkowitz wrote in the Washington Post (6/22, 15.68M) “The Health 202” that Scott Lloyd is the director of “the federal agency that’s become central in the political maelstrom over the Trump administration’s now-reverted policy separating migrant children from their families at the southern border.” But “Lloyd has said nothing publicly about the matter, even as it has consumed the headlines for days.” The piece added that it remains “unclear the exact role played by Lloyd, who directs the Office of Refugee Resettlement under the Department of Health and Human Services that has had more than 2,000 migrant children in its care since they were separated from their parents under Trump’s ‘zero tolerance’ policy (those children, and tens of thousands more, may now be transferred to the Pentagon).” He “hasn’t been heard from publicly since he spoke on a United Nations panel in April about his desire to create stricter standards for accepting unaccompanied minors who cross the border into the federally run shelters.”

Tim Kaine Visits Virginia Facility Housing Separated Immigrant Children.

The Washington Post (6/22, Anderson, Lang, 15.68M) reported that some 15 immigrant “children recently separated from their parents near the southwestern U.S. border are staying at a shelter in Northern Virginia, according to the shelter’s leadership.” On Friday, Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA) “toured the Youth for Tomorrow facility...in the Prince William County community of Bristow, aides said, speaking with some of the migrant children and learning from the staff that many of the youngsters arrived there ‘traumatized.’” The article said about “2,500 [im]migrant children were separated from parents under Trump administration actions starting in early May.” HHS’ Office of Refugee Resettlement “has placed many of them in shelters and foster homes around the country.” The piece added that

“HHS’ Administration for Children and Families did not respond to an email from The Washington Post this week seeking information about the number of separated children sent to Maryland and Virginia.”

California Facility Housing About 100 Separated Immigrant Children.

The Los Angeles Times (6/23, Esquivel, 4.03M) reported, “David & Margaret Youth and Family Services features a school, a market and a pool – even a cafe offering a \$5.50 turkey sandwich called California Dreamin’.” At present, it is “home to some of the children who were forcibly taken from their parents under President Trump’s ‘zero tolerance’ immigration policy.” The article said it is not known “how long they will be separated from their families, frustrating leaders across Los Angeles trying to help the estimated 100 kids in facilities throughout the region.” The piece added that officials at HHS’ Office of Refugee Resettlement, “the federal agency charged with managing the kids, did not respond to repeated requests for comment.”

Immigrant From El Salvador Deported Without Six-Year-Old Daughter.

The Washington Post (6/23, Partlow, 15.68M) reported on Arnovis Guidos Portillo, a 26-year-old farmer from El Salvador who was separated from his six-year-old daughter, Meybelin. Guidos says he was told the separation would be temporary, but he was eventually deported back to El Salvador without his daughter, who is still in the US. The article added, “A Southwest Key Programs spokeswoman said she could not confirm if Meybelin was at the Phoenix shelter and referred queries to the Office of Refugee Resettlement, part of the Department of Health and Human Services. An HHS spokesman said it would take days to confirm her location and, even then, the department might not be able to speak about her case because of privacy concerns.”

23andMe Offers To Provide Kits, Resources To Conduct DNA Testing, Help Reunite Separated Immigrant Families.

The San Francisco Chronicle (6/22, Ho, 3.29M) reported, “Mountain View genetic testing company 23andMe has offered to donate DNA test kits to help migrant children in detention centers reunite with their parents – prompting logistical and ethical concerns about an

undertaking that genetics experts say would be a first in the United States.” The company “said it would provide its kits and resources to federal officials to help reconnect the separated families but offered few details on how it would proceed beyond CEO Anne Wojcicki saying on Twitter, ‘We are waiting to see the best way to follow up and make it happen.’” The article said HHS would have to approve this plan, but neither the department nor its Administration for Children and Families has commented on the matter.

Trump’s Executive Order Helped To Reduce Criticism Over Immigrant Policy, But May Have Created New Issues For Administration. Politico (6/22, Johnson, Karni, Cook, 3.51M) reported, “Facing an unprecedented outpouring of public outrage this week over the separation of migrant families at the border, President Donald Trump did what he usually does when he wants a quick fix: Asked for an executive order.” The article said the President “frequently demands executive orders to carry out policies he wants to implement as a way of circumventing the long process of working with Congress to pass legislation, according to a former administration official – a move he picked up from former chief strategist Steve Bannon, who in the opening months of the Trump presidency, used the directives to carry out his ‘shock and awe’ strategy.” Although the order “stanching the flow of negative media coverage, beginning the process of reuniting children and parents, the vaguely worded immigration order created a new set of problems for the administration.” The article added that on Friday, HHS announced the creation of an “unaccompanied children reunification task force” to help reunite separated immigrant families.

Latino Nonprofit In Texas Providing Housing For Thousands Of Unaccompanied Immigrant Minors. NPR (6/22, Domonoske, 3.55M) reported that Southwest Key Programs, a large Latino nonprofit in Austin, TX, “has been running shelters for unaccompanied migrant children for two decades, without drawing much attention. In some instances, the shelters were described admiringly.” At present, “Southwest Key has 26 shelters in Texas, Arizona and California, housing more than 5,100 immigrant minors,” who represent “about half of the total population in the

custody of Health and Human Services.” The group’s “federal contracts now tally more than \$400 million annually.”

State Legislators, Advocates Worried About Welfare Of Separated Immigrant Children In Kansas. The Kansas City (MO) Star (6/22, Bauer, 636K) reported, “State legislators and child welfare attorneys say they’re worried about the welfare of migrant children staying in Kansas and question how long they will be separated from their families.” Top Democrats have requested “for a tour of the Topeka nonprofit where the children were sent, but said they were told that would have to wait.” During “a Friday morning news conference, they said officials at The Villages – which serves troubled and neglected youth – told them gaining access could take up to two weeks.” The piece added that during the 2017 fiscal year, The Villages, a nonprofit in Topeka, KS, “received \$2.6 million in funding from the Office of Refugee Resettlement through its Unaccompanied Alien Children Program.” That amount has already risen to \$3.2 million this year.

Sen. Johnson Discusses Government’s Ability To Reunite Families. The Hill (6/24, Balluck, 2.71M) reports Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI) in an interview early Sunday “pointed to the Obama administration’s track record when asked if the Trump administration will be able to reunite migrant children who were separated from their families at the border.” He argued that “the track record of the prior administration wasn’t particularly good either. ... A subcommittee looked...into the lack of coordination between [the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)], who with unaccompanied children has to turn those unaccompanied children over to [the Department of Health and Human Resources (HHS)] within 72 hours. And they literally lost track of, I think it was about 1,500 kids.”

HHS IN THE NEWS

CNN Says Official Who Was Disciplined Over Conspiracy Website, Anti-Islam Show Included That Information On Her Resume When She Applied To HHS. The Hill (6/23,

Birnbaum, 2.71M) reported that Ximena Barreto, an HHS official “who was demoted following a public outcry over her work for a conspiracy website and anti-Islam show, listed both experiences on her resume, according to a report by CNN.” The copy of her resume which CNN obtained on Thursday “shows that she listed her work for the conspiracy-focused website Borderland Alternative Media and right-wing YouTube shows when she applied for the position.” In addition, she “listed her personal website, which linked to all of her social media accounts where she published a number of derogatory remarks.”

CMS Launches Data Element Library

Advances. EHR Intelligence (6/22, Monica) reported that CMS recently launched a Data Element Library “that supports health data and health IT standardization to improve interoperability.” According to the article, “DEL is a free, centralized database that enables the public to view the specific types of data CMS requires post-acute care (PAC) facilities, such as nursing homes and rehabilitation hospitals, to collect during patient health assessments.” The article added that “by improving interoperability and health data standardization across care settings, CMS helps to ensure patients can have access to their information when needed.”

Health Data Management (6/22) also covered the story.

Study: 1 in 5 Americans Lives With Mental Disease.

The Tennessean (6/25, 513K) reports that “nearly 1 in five U.S. adults lives with a mental illness,” which is 44.7 million people in 2016. But estimates “suggest that only half of the people with mental illnesses receive treatment, according to the National Institute of Mental Health.” Oregon has “the highest rate, and New Jersey the lowest, according to 2012-2014 data analyzed by the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.” SAMHSA acting deputy assistant secretary Kana Enomoto said, “The figures in SAMHSA’s report remind us how important it is to take mental health as seriously as any other health condition.”

Bardella: “Enormously Disruptive” Actions By Trump Administration Going Unnoticed.

Kurt Bardella writes for the Huffington Post (6/24, 4.32M) that as

opponents of Donald Trump “expend all of our oxygen pushing back against the jailing of children, the shameless corruption or the daily assaults on the First Amendment, the administration is taking enormously disruptive actions that go virtually unseen or unnoticed.” On June 1, “the Department of Health and Human Services officially unveiled a proposed rule that could have significant consequences for women’s health care. It is yet another front in the Republican Party’s ongoing war on women and it must be met with resistance and vigorous public debate.” The proposed rule, “often called the ‘gag rule,’ targets health care providers who perform abortions by withholding Title X (the National Family Planning Program) funds.”

CDC Determines Belmont Park Worker’s Death Caused By Bacterial Sepsis, Not Hantavirus.

The New York Times (6/24, Nir, Subscription Publication, 19.33M) reports a recently deceased Belmont Park racetrack employee died of “bacterial sepsis, not hantavirus, a rat-borne illness that was initially suspected, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.” After the man “collapsed...on the track grounds beside the ramshackle employee housing run by the New York Racing Association, and died less than a week later, state health officials suspected hantavirus”; and a commercial laboratory determined he “tested positive for hantavirus antibodies.” However, testing by the CDC “concluded that sepsis...was the true cause of the man’s death.”

Lyme Disease Cases Significantly Underreported, CDC Says.

The Wall Street Journal (6/22, McGinty, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) reported that disparities between documented Lyme disease cases and the actual prevalence are high, according to the CDC, which says that the 30,000 cases recorded annually are a fraction of the probable 300,000 cases per year. Lyme disease, as the “most common vector-borne disease by far,” remains “underreported,” according to CDC epidemiologist Dr. Kiersten Kugeler. She added, “All reportable diseases are subject to underreporting, although we know this is particularly true for common diseases and for those often treated in an outpatient setting.”

FDA Warns That Recalled Flonase Spray May Contain Glass Particles.

The New Orleans Times-Picayune (6/23, Krueger, 521K) reported the FDA said Flonase and other Apotex Corp. products have been recalled due to the potential of contamination by small glass particles in some bottles. The news follows a customer complaint “about a nasal spray containing the company’s Fluticasone,” and the FDA is warning “that glass particles could block the spray bottle’s actuator and affect the pump’s functionality” and injure users’ nasal cavities if they use the product.

Op-Ed: FDA’s Restrictions On Mifepristone Could Harm Women Experiencing Miscarriages.

Dorothy Novick, MD, pediatrician in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, wrote for STAT (6/22, 27K) that women who suffer miscarriages should not be prevented by the Food and Drug Administration from accessing misoprostol. Dr. Novick said a “landmark clinical trial, published this month in the New England Journal of Medicine,” found that 84 percent of “women experiencing first-trimester miscarriages...[given] a dose of misoprostol or...a combination of misoprostol plus mifepristone” completed the miscarriage “within two days, compared to 67 percent among women who got misoprostol alone.” She added that the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists “has announced it is reviewing these findings to determine whether to update its clinical guidance and policy position on caring for women with miscarriage,” adding that the FDA’s restrictions could prevent women from accessing mifepristone.

NIH Cancels Alcohol Study Which Received Industry Funding.

The Baltimore Sun (6/20, McDaniels, 570K) reported the NIH has canceled “funding of a highly criticized \$100 million study involving Johns Hopkins researchers that looked at whether one drink of alcohol a day can decrease the risk of heart disease and diabetes.” According to the Sun, an NIH working group led an investigation which “found that employees from its National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism were in such frequent communication with [the] lead researcher...and the industry that it undermined the scientific integrity of the study.” However, the NIH investigation determined that the “foundation

that raises money for the National Institutes of Health...did nothing wrong.”

Faye Flam wrote for Bloomberg View (6/22, 4.46M) that “NIH Director Francis Collins was emphatic about the fatal nature of this study’s flaws,” telling Science that “many of the [NIH] staff who have seen the working group report were frankly shocked to see that so many lines were crossed.”

The Toledo (OH) Blade (6/22, 212K) editorialized, “Dr. Collins’ decision to end the study was in the best interests of science, the American public and NIH’s credibility,” adding, “But NIH under Dr. Collins just made a bold statement about the importance of science and ethics. It’s a moment worth noting.”

Op-Ed Critical Of NIH Over Its Now-Canceled Alcohol Study.

Paul D. Thacker, former Senate investigator, wrote in the Washington Post (6/22, 15.68M) that NIH Director Francis Collins’ decision to cancel the NIH’s “noxious ethical problem” – its “alcohol consumption study that had been funded mostly by beer and liquor companies” that “seemed predetermined to find alcohol’s benefits but not potential harms” – is an indicator of “intellectual corruption at our government research agencies.” According to Thacker, “this was only the latest scandal involving hidden corporate influence,” and in his time as an investigator, he “found that the agency often ignored obvious conflicts” and that “its industry ties...are never really addressed unless the agency faces media scrutiny.” Thacker noted that National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism officials “courted alcohol-makers for several years to fund the study,” adding that NIAAA Director George Koob “declined to fund research critical of alcohol advertising.” Thacker called for “continued scrutiny of the NIH, by the public and Congress,” to generate transparency.

Marijuana Addiction Poses Real Threat That Many Do Not Recognize, Experts Warn.

The Washington Post (6/22, Vestal, 15.68M) reported that many people are unaware of the possibility of marijuana addiction, noting that “in the public health and medical communities, it is a well-defined disorder that includes physical withdrawal symptoms, cravings and psychological dependence.” Some experts believe “it is on the rise, perhaps because of the increasing potency of genetically engineered

plants and the use of concentrated products, or because more users are partaking multiple times a day.” The piece said that according to Dr. Nora Volkow, National Institute on Drug Abuse Director, “an estimated 2.7 million Americans meet the diagnostic criteria for marijuana dependence, second only to alcohol dependence.” Susan Weiss, director of research on the health effects of marijuana at the NIDA, indicated “at the annual meeting of the American Society of Addiction Medicine in April...that marijuana can be addictive.” She said, “But believe it or not...we’re having a hard time convincing people that addiction exists.”

NIDA Director Discusses Factors That Have Led To Opioid Crisis.

The Atlantic (6/23, 3.08M) reported, “In 2016, 64,000 people died from drug overdoses in the U.S., most of them due to opioids. That’s more than the number of Americans killed in the wars in Vietnam and Iraq combined.” Three factors “led to those numbers, Nora Volkow, director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, a part of the National Institutes of Health, said at the Aspen Ideas Festival, which is cohosted by The Aspen Institute and The Atlantic.” First, the epidemic “was started by a healthcare system that sought to minimize pain and suffering.” Second, Volkow “said, this overprescription coincided with a massive flood of heroin in the 2000s from Mexico.” Thirdly, she “said, heroin began to be laced by drug dealers with synthetic opioids, which are not only relatively easy to produce, but also stronger than heroin.”

Cancer Experts Discuss Ways To Reduce Risk Of Death Due To Prostate Cancer.

U.S. News & World Report (6/21, Schroeder, 1.97M) discussed how men can lower their risk of death due to prostate cancer through screening and treatment. The article quoted Dr. Serban Negoita, chief of the National Cancer Institute’s Data Quality, Analysis, and Interpretation Branch, as saying that “in 2013, we noticed that the slope or the speed with which this rate of prostate cancer mortality declined in the past, kind of changed” based on the findings of the Annual Report to the Nation on the Status of Cancer released last month. Dr. Negoita, “lead author of the prostate cancer section” of the report, explained that the study found “age-adjusted prostate cancer death rates leveled off...and were all around 19 per 100,000 for the

most recent years captured.” The article included experts’ comments on the benefits and drawbacks of screening.

Oncologist Who Uses Twitter To Decry Precision Medicine “Hype”

Profiled. NPR (6/24, Harris, 3.55M) reports Dr. Vinay Prasad, assistant professor of medicine at Oregon Health and Science University, “has made a name for himself calling out the hype surrounding precision medicine.” A hematologist-oncologist who is “a prolific author” and active Twitter user, Dr. Prasad has been called a “professional troublemaker...as he tweets to his 20,000-plus followers.” NPR reports on comments Dr. Prasad made at the American Society of Clinical Oncology annual meeting, and notes that the NCI-MATCH trial presented at the meeting indicated “disappointing” results among “150 patients who were matched to drugs based on their tumor’s genetic fingerprint, rather than the type of tumor.” Dr. Richard Schilsky, ASCO chief medical officer, is quoted as saying, “He’s a bit of a provocateur. But frankly he’s taking a very hard and objective look at a very complex area and...he’s saying what’s behind the curtain.”

In a 4,000-word story profiling Dr. Prasad, the Cancer Letter (6/22, Goldberg) reported that Keith Flaherty, the ECOG-ACRIN chair of the NCI MATCH trial, said of the study, which Prasad referenced in one publication, “After accrual of nearly 6,000 patients to the centralized screening phase of the MATCH trial, we found that 19 percent of patients had molecular findings that permitted treatment assignment. ... Notably, this excludes the proportion of patients who were not eligible for treatment assignment in MATCH because of prior FDA approval or ongoing late stage trials in patients with those cancers types with those same molecular features. Our experience indicates that NGS testing was an efficient strategy for identifying patients for inclusion in MATCH.”

In a 5,000-word story, the Cancer Letter (6/22, Goldberg) offered a review of Prasad’s “thought experiment,” his paper titled “Low-value approvals and high prices might incentivize ineffective drug development,” to evaluate the commentary that has been billed by The New York Times as a study. The Times said Dr. Prasad’s commentary indicated that “companies could theoretically test compounds they know to be ineffective with the hope of getting a false

positive result that would enable them to market a worthless medicine at an enormous profit.”

The Cancer Letter (6/22, Goldberg) featured an interview with Dr. Prasad about the commentary, published in *Nature Reviews Clinical Oncology*, which argued that the “FDA is approving drugs too fast and on too little data, thereby benefiting drug companies, but not the cancer patients.” Dr. Prasad discussed this assertion, saying that two “Government Accountability Office reports say FDA is not enforcing [post-marketing commitments] for surrogate approval,” among other points.

OPIOID CRISIS

House Passes “Sweeping Package” To Fight Opioid Crisis. In a 396 to 14 vote, the House on Friday passed “a sweeping package to fight the opioid crisis,” approving measures “that include encouraging nonaddictive pain treatment and fighting the rise of synthetic drugs such as fentanyl,” the Washington Post (6/22, Zezima, 15.68M) reported. The suite of legislation “would allow for increased research for nonaddictive pain medications, allow physician assistants and nurse practitioners to prescribe medications that treat opioid addiction and create opioid recovery centers.”

The AP (6/22) reported the bill passed Friday “encourages states to increase coverage of treatment for substance abuse disorders through Medicaid.” Foster youth and former prisoners “are among the populations targeted for enhanced coverage of their treatment.” In addition, the legislation “seeks to expand the use of medications to treat opioid abuse.”

Fierce Healthcare (6/22, Reed, 146K) quoted Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Greg Walden (R-OR) as saying, “This package is not Congress’ first legislative response to this crisis, nor will it be our last. But it does include meaningful solutions that will update archaic policies, better equip our communities to respond to this evolving epidemic, and save lives.”

The Washington Examiner (6/22, Leonard, 340K) quoted Rep. Kevin Brady (R-TX) saying, “While we still have a long way to go to solve this crisis, this legislation, which is made up of many Republican proposals, takes meaningful strides to help millions of Americans recapture their lost hopes and dreams.” Meanwhile, the Washington Times (6/22, Howell, 460K) reported House

Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy “cast the bill in personal terms, recounting how his press secretary’s brother died of an opioid overdose, while the White House said it supported its own effort to treat opioids abuse as a public health emergency.”

CQ Roll Call (DC) (6/22, Raman, 117K) reported the House “considered seven amendments to the legislation. Six were adopted by voice vote,” including an amendment “from Republicans Joe L. Barton and Mark Meadows and Democrat Ann McLane Kuster that would require the Food and Drug Administration commissioner to develop evidence-based prescribing guidelines for treating acute forms of pain.” Also included was “an amendment from Republican John Curtis to require the Department of Health and Human Services to issue a report on current practices for prescribing opioids during pregnancy” and a “bipartisan amendment from Keith Rothfus and William Keating to require HHS to institute guidelines for when to prescribe the opioid overdose reversal drug naloxone.” Another amendment included was from Democrat Maxine Waters and requires HHS “to survey groups that treat substance abuse to develop a plan to determine any gaps in services or funding for treating drug addiction.”

The Hill (6/22, Sullivan, Brufke, 2.71M) reported “some say the legislation is not enough to make the large-scale changes needed to fight the epidemic.” Addiction advocates “largely praise the measures as good steps forward, but say that much more work and funding is needed to tackle the issue’s scale.” Rep. Frank Pallone Jr. (D-NJ) “said the bill makes ‘incremental changes to support those affected by the opioid crisis’ but that it ‘does not adequately deal with the magnitude of the crisis that this country is facing.’”

Modern Healthcare (6/22, Dickson, Subscription Publication, 239K) reported American Hospital Association Executive Vice President Tom Nickels “said the trade group was especially pleased to see overwhelming support for provisions that would expand the use of telehealth services for substance use disorder; guide improved care for infants with neonatal abstinence syndrome; and increase the types and capacity of providers offering medication-assisted treatment.”

Politico (6/22, Ehley, 3.51M) reported the measure, which was endorsed by the White House, “combines more than 50 bills” and now

heads to the Senate, where lawmakers “are planning to take up their own opioid legislation.” A House Republican aide “said leadership hopes to conference the bills in July, though it could slide later into the summer depending on the Senate’s schedule.” The White House said in a statement “We urge the Senate to continue the bipartisan tradition of helping Americans who are affected by the crisis, to swiftly pass the legislation from the House, and to get these lifesaving bills to the President’s desk.”

Handful Of Companies To “Reap Windfall” From Bills. Politico (6/22, Cancryn, 3.51M) reported a small handful of companies “that have spent millions lobbying Congress could reap a windfall if any of the bills become law.” Alkermes, “which spent \$1 million lobbying in part to support a bill to fund full-service centers where people can detox, receive medical care and start treatment – a setup that could boost the fortunes of its best-selling product, anti-addiction treatment Vivitrol, which has been held back by the need for patients to fully detox before taking the drug.” Alkermes “has already attracted attention for its aggressive marketing tactics and Washington lobbying presence. Former HHS Secretary Tom Price toured the company’s Wilmington, Ohio, plant last year to tout Vivitrol – stirring controversy by belittling rival medication-assisted treatments that are more widely-used.”

Government-Funded Study Says Medicare, Medicaid, Private Health Insurance Fueled Opioid Epidemic.

The Washington Examiner (6/22, Leonard, 340K) reported Medicare, Medicaid, and private health insurance “helped fuel the opioid epidemic because they made it too easy and inexpensive for patients to get opioids, suggests a government-funded study by researchers at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.” Authors of the study “conclude that insurers share responsibility for the massive toll of opioid deaths because they didn’t put in precautions on the drugs to make them harder to access.” The study was funded “by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, part of the Department of Health and Human Services.” It used input “from other federal agencies, including the National Institute on Drug Abuse of the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.”

Modern Healthcare (6/22, Johnson, Subscription Publication, 239K) reported, “Although insurers have made an effort to discourage opioid abuse by placing quantity limits, beginning therapy with less risky medications or requiring preapproval for prescriptions, they applied the same rules to non-opioid treatments and made it just as difficult for patients to access opioid alternatives, according to the study.”

Study: Online Black-Market Opioid Sales More Than Doubled After Reclassification.

Reuters (6/22, Lehman) reported online black-market sales of opioid painkillers “more than doubled in the United States during the two years after these drugs were “rescheduled,” putting tighter restrictions on legal prescriptions and sales, according to a recent study.” Almost immediately after hydrocodone combination products were reclassified to schedule III in 2014, “the proportion of all drugs illicitly purchased in the U.S. from sellers on the ‘dark net’ that were in the opioid category began rising, reaching 13.7 percent in 2016.” The study was published in The BMJ.

Dartmouth Getting \$5.3 Million To Study Opioid Treatment For Pregnant Women.

The AP (6/24) reports a research team at Dartmouth’s Geisel School of Medicine “is getting \$5.3 million to study medication-assisted treatment for pregnant women with opioid use disorders.” Officials “say combining medication with psychosocial services has been shown to significantly reduce poor outcomes for babies born to mothers with opioid use disorders, but it can be difficult for women to find providers.”

Study Says Counties With Highest Opioid Prescription Rates In 2015 Were More Likely To Vote For Trump.

The Dallas Morning News (6/22, Rice, Reporter, 1.05M) reported that a study from University of Texas researchers found that “the counties with the highest opioid prescription rates in 2015 were also more likely to favor presidential candidate Donald Trump in 2016.” Support for Trump “was as strong a marker of an area’s opioid rates as some commonly used socioeconomic factors – such as household income, education levels and unemployment, the study said.” The study notes that an “estimated 11.5 million Americans misused prescription opioids and 2.1 million had

an opioid use disorder in 2016, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.”

The Huffington Post (6/24, Papenfuss, 4.32M) reported the areas “with the high rates of opioid use are largely concentrated in the Southern and Appalachian communities with high unemployment rates and lower median incomes.” Trump support “might be explained simply by demographics: the same rural, economically depressed populations most severely affected by opioid use also happened to be the same communities where Trump gained strong support.”

The Daily Intelligencer (NY) (6/22, 551K) reported the researchers “caution that their study does not suggest that people who are addicted to opioids voted for Trump – ‘If you’re stoned out on opioids, you’re probably not voting,’ lead author Dr. James Goodwin” said. Rather, “they say, it indicates a connection between the economic and social problems that lead to high rates of opioid use and support for Trump.”

The Washington Times (6/22, Kelly, 460K) reported the researchers said, “The association of the presidential vote with chronic opioid use underscores the importance of cultural, economic, and environmental factors associated with the opioid epidemic.” Newsweek (6/24, Hugo, 2.18M) reported the researchers “came to this conclusion by analyzing and cross-referencing data from the U.S. Census Bureau, medicare files and other datasets.” They defined opioid dependency “as anyone who had 90 days or more of prescription given to them within a year.”

NPR (6/23, Chisholm, 3.55M) reported, “In counties with higher-than-average rates of chronic opioid prescriptions, 60 percent of the voters went for Trump. In the counties with lower-than-average rates, only 39 percent voted for Trump.” The findings were published Friday “in the medical journal JAMA Network Open.”

Rhode Island Gets More Federal Funding To Combat Opioid Addiction.

The AP (6/23) reported Rhode Island “has been awarded more federal funding to combat opioid addiction.” The state’s congressional delegation “say Rhode Island’s share from a grant program at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration will rise from \$2.1 million last year to \$12.5 million.”

Portman Says STOP Act Will Help Combat Rise Of Fentanyl.

Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH) writes for the Toledo (OH) Blade (6/23, 212K) that “at the heart” of the drug epidemic “is the rise of fentanyl.” He says Congress “should act with urgency because people are overdosing and dying every day. This problem isn’t getting better – it’s getting worse.” Unlike other drugs transported over land, “most illegal fentanyl is manufactured in China and shipped into the U.S. through our own Postal Service.” Citing results from a recent investigation, he says fentanyl manufacturers “prefer to ship through the Postal Service, and essentially guarantee delivery when doing so, because the Postal Service has lower security standards than private carriers.” Portman says the result of the investigation “is legislation I introduced called the STOP Act.” The STOP Act “will hold the Postal Service to the same standard as private carriers and require them to get this information on all overseas packages entering the U.S.”

Rep. Rodgers Highlights Work On Combating Opioid Crisis.

Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA) writes for the Spokane (WA) Spokesman-Review (6/23, 164K) that one of “the greatest threats to America today is the growing scourge of opioid abuse and addiction.” She highlights her and other lawmakers’ response to the crisis, saying, “In 2016, we got the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act signed into law, and over the past two weeks, we in the House have passed dozens of bills to continue to fight this crisis and provide resources to those who need them.”

Ridge: House Vote Brings Nation One Step Closer To Beating Opioid Crisis.

Former Pennsylvania governor and senior adviser to Americans for Securing All Packages Tom Ridge writes for the Detroit News (6/25, 710K) “signs of progress” in the fight against opioids. Last week, the US Senate and House of Representatives “came to an agreement on the Synthetics Trafficking and Overdose Prevention (STOP) Act, legislation by Michigan’s own Congressman Mike Bishop designed to close a major security loophole in the global postal system that has fueled the opioid epidemic.” And the House “just passed the bill, bringing us one step closer to cutting off the flow of dangerous drugs.”

Study: Combination Of Opioids With Common Drug Risky In First 90 Days.

Forbes (6/25, Disalvo, 10.34M) reports that a new study “shows that the combination of opioids with one common class of drugs in particular is especially risky in the first 90 days of concurrent use.” Those drugs “are benzodiazepines (often called “benzos”), the class that includes alprazolam (Xanax), diazepam (Valium), and clonazepam (Klonopin), meds frequently prescribed to alleviate anxiety.” The study “examined data from more than 71,000 Medicare Part D beneficiaries to find out how simultaneous use of opioids and benzos influence overdose risk over time.” and it was published in JAMA Network Open.

Purdue Pharma Fires 350 Employees As Opioid Lawsuits Mount.

The CBS Weekend News (6/23, story 8, 2:50, Quijano, 2.63M) reported Oxycontin manufacturer Purdue Pharma “laid off 350 workers this week, including the remainder of its sales team,” as it prepares for “a wave of lawsuits accusing it of fueling the opioid epidemic.” Former employees claim they were taught “to tell doctors that some patients might only appear to be addicted,” despite having no studies to back up the assertion. Purdue disputes the claim, saying in a statement to CBS that Oxycontin sales “have been consistent with the information contained in the FDA-approved label.”

Ontario Promoting Free Use Of Opioid Antidote Naloxone.

In a report on the expansion of access to opioid antidote naloxone in Ontario, the Wall Street Journal (6/24, Monga, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) profiles Leon Alward, who has overdosed five times in the last four years, but is still alive because in four of the five emergencies, he received shots of naloxone. Alward has access to the drug for free from any of the 2,800 pharmacies that stock it in Ontario, which became possible after the province made it available without a prescription in 2016. The US has not done so, in part because, as critics say, such widespread availability could increase opioid use.

China Says US Should Do More To Cut Demand For Opioids.

Reuters (6/25) reports China's drug control agency on Monday “said the United States should do more to cut its

demand for opioids to tackle the use of synthetic drug fentanyl, but it vowed to step up cooperation after Chinese production of the substance had been blamed for fuelling the U.S. opioid crisis.”

Experts Discuss Government's Role In Physician's Ability To Treat Patients With Opioids.

In its “Journal Reports” column, the Wall Street Journal (6/24, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) provides a roundup of articles from healthcare experts discussing whether the government should limit a physician's ability to prescribe opioids.

Gutman: PA Bills Threaten To Push State “Backward On Opioids.”

Abraham Gutman wrote for the Philadelphia Inquirer (6/22, 1.07M) that two bills under consideration by Pennsylvania legislators “threaten to take the commonwealth backward on opioids.” The first “is an effort to limit already-scarce evidence-based treatment. The second limits physician discretion when prescribing opioids. If either bill becomes law, Pennsylvania will be worse off, not better.”

Lopez: Needle Exchanges Help Combat Opioid Addiction.

German Lopez wrote for Vox (6/22, Lopez, 1.66M) that needle exchange programs “are an exhaustively studied, proven public health intervention in the fight against opioid addiction – making them a key component in efforts to halt the opioid epidemic.” However, Lopez said, needle exchanges “are also illegal in 15 states,” adding, “Needle exchanges not only provide a place where people can obtain syringes for drug use or dispose them.” The “driving idea” behind the programs “is this: Recognizing the reality that some people do use drugs, it's better to provide them somewhere to pick up new, sterile syringes (without the risk of spreading, say, HIV or hepatitis C infection) than to turn them away from potential public health services and force them to reuse needles despite the hazards.”

MENTAL ILLNESS

Jails, Prisons Are Places Of Punishment Unsuitable For People With Mental Illness Or Intellectual Disabilities, Psychiatrist Says.

In an opinion piece in the Huffington Post (6/22, 4.32M),

psychiatrist Brian Barnett, MD, a post-doctoral fellow in the Partners Healthcare Addiction Psychiatry Fellowship and a clinical fellow in psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, discussed the plight of people with mental illness and those with intellectual disabilities who are incarcerated. Dr. Barnett observed, "People with mental illness and intellectual disability deserve a health care system that relies on nurses and physicians, not correctional officers. Jails and prisons are designed to be places of punishment, so let's stop filling them up with people who need healing."

Colorado Schools To Receive Small Grants To Pay For Suicide-Prevention Training.

The Denver Post (6/24, 755K) reported that schools in Colorado "will soon divide \$400,000 into small grants to pay for suicide-prevention training for all campus employees, including teachers, front-desk attendants and custodians." Authorized through Colorado Senate Bill 272, "the school training grants – from \$5,000 to \$10,000 for each campus – will be available in January and must be used to train all school personnel on the warning signs of impending suicide attempts, diffuse crisis situations and connect troubled people to mental health services." The Post pointed out that "suicide is the second leading cause of death" in the state "for people ages 10-24." What's more, "the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that suicide rates in Colorado saw a 34.1 percent increase between 1999 and 2016."

HEALTHCARE FRAUD

Texas Supreme Court Says Xerox Responsible For Fraudulent Medicaid Dental Payments. The Texas Tribune (6/22, Evans, 24K) reported the Texas Supreme Court ruled Friday that Xerox is responsible "for the \$1 billion in fraudulent Medicaid payments the company made while overseeing pre-authorizations for Texas Medicaid patients' dental work." The Supreme Court upheld a Texas Court of Appeals ruling that Xerox – and not the dentists – was responsible "for mismanaging and mis-authorizing payments for Medicaid dental services," according to the article.

Former Physician Found Guilty In \$13 Million Healthcare Fraud. The Dallas

Morning News (6/22, Krause, 1.05M) reported that Dr. Kelly Robinett, a "70-year-old Carrollton man was convicted Friday of four fraud charges for his role in a \$13 million home healthcare scam made possible by what prosecutors called his rubber stamp signature on fraudulent documents." FBI Dallas office special agent in charge Eric K. Jackson was quoted as saying, "The significance of this case highlights the responsibility health care workers, especially physicians and nurses, have to protect not only their patients, but prevent fraud against any federal health insurance program during the performance of their duties."

PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICING

New York State Demands Drug Maker Lower Cost Of \$272,000 Cystic Fibrosis Treatment.

The New York Times (6/24, Thomas, Subscription Publication, 19.33M) reports that "in a case that is being closely watched around the country," New York state health officials have said the new drug to treat cystic fibrosis, Orkambi, "is not worth its price" – \$272,000 annually – "and are demanding that Vertex give a steeper discount to the state's Medicaid program. The case is the first test of a new law aimed at reining in skyrocketing drug costs in New York's Medicaid program." Under the new law, "New York could also demand that Vertex disclose details about how it sets its price, including how much goes toward research and development or to other areas, like marketing." The Times adds that the debate over the drug "may soon become moot – earlier this year, the Food and Drug Administration approved a new cystic fibrosis drug, also made by Vertex."

Hatch: To Reduce Prescription Drug Costs, Increase Competition.

Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT) writes for CQ Roll Call (DC) (6/25, 117K) that "80 percent of Americans consider the cost of prescription drugs unreasonable." At the same time, a "majority of Americans recognize that prescription drugs have improved countless lives." However, "if we truly want to reduce costs and make life-changing and life-saving medications accessible to all Americans, we must increase competition among prescription drugs – particularly new drugs that have the ability to cure diseases, but face limited competition."

HEALTH CARE & INSURANCE REFORM

Experts Discuss Whether States Should Allow Insurers To Offer Health Plans With Fewer Mandated Benefits.

In its "Journal Reports" column, the Wall Street Journal (6/24, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) provides a grouping of articles on the topic of whether states should allow insurers to offer "bare-bones" health plans that have fewer mandated benefits.

Two-Thirds Of Americans Disapprove Of DOJ's Decision To Support Lawsuit That Would Challenge Affordable Care Act's Protections For People With Preexisting Conditions, Poll Says.

Forbes (6/24, 10.34M) contributor Bruce Japsen writes that 66% of Americans disapprove of the Department of Justice's "decision to support a lawsuit that would eliminate popular protections for patients with preexisting conditions under the Affordable Care Act," according to a poll conducted by Hart Research Associates for the group Protect Our Care. The poll also found that 47% of voters "strongly disapprove," while "11% strongly approve."

Increases In Exchange Plan Premiums May Hurt Republicans In This Year's Midterm Elections.

Politico (6/24, Demko, 3.51M) reports premiums for exchange plans are expected to increase "by double digits in 2019, causing heartburn for politicians as voters will head to the polls within days of learning about the looming hit to their pocketbooks." However, the article points out that "unlike recent campaign cycles, when Republicans capitalized on Obamacare sticker shock to help propel them to complete control of Congress and the White House, they're now likely to be the ones feeling the wrath of voters."

Healthcare Likely To Be Key Issue In Minnesota's Congressional Races.

The Minneapolis Star Tribune (6/22, Rao, 1.16M) reported healthcare is likely to be the dominant issue in Congressional races in Minnesota. The article explains that Republicans "have twice failed to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act

(ACA), while an increasing number of Democrats are advocating for single-payer health care – a difficult proposition even if they win back control of Congress in November."

Florida Attorney General Confronted By Protesters At Movie Showing.

The Tampa Bay (FL) Times (6/23, Contorno, 832K) reported protesters confronted Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi outside a movie screening at Tampa Theatre. The protesters questioned Bondi's "recent actions on health care policy and her stance on immigration."

The Hill (6/23, Bowden, 2.71M) reported the movie being screened was a new documentary about Mr. Rogers called "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" One protester yelled, "What would Mr. Rogers think about you and your legacy in Florida? Taking away health insurance from people with pre-existing conditions, Pam Bondi! Shame on you!"

The AP (6/23), Fox News (6/23, Dedaj, 16.38M), and the New York Post (6/24, Lapin, 4.46M) also covered the story.

Texas Medical Association "Vehemently" Objects To AMA Opposing State's Lawsuit Challenging The Affordable Care Act.

The Houston Chronicle (6/22, Deam, 2.14M) reported the Texas Medical Association "vehemently" objected to the American Medical Association and other medical groups, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, "filing a legal opposition to the Texas-led lawsuit seeking to declare the Affordable Care Act unconstitutional and ultimately unraveling the protections for patients with pre-existing conditions." On June 12, the Texas delegation at the AMA's national convention in Chicago called for the AMA to not file an amicus brief in the lawsuit. Dr. David Henkes, the chair of the state delegation at the AMA House of Delegates, said, "The ACA is an extremely unpopular political symbol in our state. We fervently urge the AMA not to file a brief in this case at this time."

Three Insurers That Offered Exchange Plans In South Florida In 2018 Have Refiled To Offer Plans In 2019.

The South Florida Sun Sentinel (6/22, Hurtibise, 601K) reported the three insurers that offered exchange plans in South Florida in 2018 have refiled to offer

plans in 2019. Florida Blue, Molina Healthcare, and Ambetter “submitted 2019 rate proposals with the Florida Office of Insurance Regulation as required by June 20, along with four other companies that filed to sell plans in other areas of the state.”

Indiana Exchange Plan Premiums To Increase 5.2% On Average. The Indianapolis Star (6/22, Groppe, 477K) reported premiums for exchange plans in Indiana are expected to increase an average of 5.2% in 2019, which may not “be as high as in some other states.” The AP (6/24) reports CareSource Indiana Inc. is seeking an average increase of 10.2%, while Celtic Insurance Co. is seeking an average decrease of .5%.

Ohio Exchange Plan Premiums To Increase 8.2% On Average. The Cleveland Plain Dealer (6/22, Hancock, 1.03M) reported premiums for Ohio exchange plans will increase an average of 8.2%, “according to preliminary data released Friday from the Ohio Department of Insurance.” The article points out that the average increase last year was 20%.

Administrative Costs For Blue Cross And Blue Shield Plans Grew In 2017 To Highest Levels Since 2013, Report Says. Modern Healthcare (6/22, Bannow, Subscription Publication, 239K) reported “Blue Cross and Blue Shield plans spent more on activities like underwriting, risk adjustment and provider audits in 2017 than in prior years, pushing the plans’ total administrative costs to their highest level since 2013, the height of the expensive buildup to the Affordable Care Act,” according to “a new report from the financial advisory firm Sherlock Company.” The report was based on an analysis of “14 Blues plans with a combined 37.1 million members--roughly 35% of all Blues members.”

Commentary Considers Health Reform. Several outlets offer opinions on health reform.

Alfredo Ortiz, the president of the Job Creators Network, and Dr. Thomas Price, the former Secretary of Health and Human Services who is a senior healthcare policy fellow at the Job Creators Network, wrote in an opinion piece for The Hill (6/22, 2.71M) that the Department of

Labor’s new rule expanding access to association health plans (AHPs) will help many small businesses and their employees gain health coverage. Ortiz and Price argue that the new rule will “provide expanded health-care coverage options for small business owners and their employees by making it easier for them to group together in associations, where they can enjoy similar regulations and economies of scale as their big business competitors.”

The Bangor (ME) Daily News (6/23, 168K) editorialized that “even though it can’t get a plan past Congress to repeal the Affordable Care Act, the Trump administration is intent on resorting to other means to unravel health coverage for low-income Americans.” The editorial argues that the Trump Administration “has tried its utmost to sabotage federally subsidized, Affordable Care Act-sanctioned health insurance plans in the individual market,” and “it’s also set its sights on undermining Medicaid – the decades-old health insurance program for low-income and disabled Americans.”

Georgia Attorney General Chris Carr wrote in an opinion piece for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution (6/22, 1.09M) that “as Attorney General, I am committed to upholding the rule of law with each decision I make in order to protect the basic principles upon which our nation is founded.” Carr argues that the US Supreme Court has twice upheld the Affordable Care Act as constitutional, but he believes “the court must take another look at this law now that Congress has eliminated” the individual mandate penalty.

Sen. Lamar Alexander wrote in an opinion piece for the Tennessean (6/22, 513K) that the Trump Administration’s new rule “offered thousands of Tennesseans who are self-employed or who work at small businesses the opportunity to buy the same kind of lower cost health insurance with the same patient protections that roughly 160 million Americans get working for a larger employer.” Alexander argues that through association health plans, people will be able “to obtain the same kind of less expensive health insurance that employees of large companies, like Walmart or Amazon, can buy today.”

Elsa Pearson, MPH, a policy analyst at the Boston University School of Public Health, Austin Frakt, PhD, an associate professor at the Boston University School of Public Health, and Sandro Galea, MD, DrPH, the dean of the Boston University School of Public Health, wrote in an

opinion piece for the [Huffington Post](#) (6/23, 4.32M) that “there is a 20-year life-expectancy gap between the country’s healthiest and least healthy counties, and a similar life-expectancy gap within counties.” Pearson, Frakt, and Galea argue that “socioeconomic factors – such as income and race or ethnicity – influence health, perhaps even more so than access to health care,” and that as a result “traditional health care alone is inadequate to address all the drivers of poor health.”

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (6/24, 2.14M) editorializes that “Trump’s Justice Department is supporting efforts by 20 states, including Texas, to strangle the Affordable Care Act.” The editorial argues that “killing Obamacare would keep a promise Trump made to a constituency he believes will win him a second term. The millions who will lose health coverage if Obamacare dies would be collateral damage to him.”

Heritage Foundation Senior Legal Research Fellow Paul Larkin Jr. writes for the [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (6/25, 92K) that “the constitutionality of Obamacare is an issue once again.” He says that while the Supreme Court categorized the law as a tax, “now the fun begins. Effective January 2019, the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act reduces the payment for not purchasing health insurance to \$0.” That matters because “once the Obamacare penalty disappears, so does the basis on which the Supreme Court upheld it.” In Chief Justice Roberts’ words, the “‘essential feature of a tax’ is it raises money. Soon, Obamacare won’t. Live by \$1 in revenue, die by \$0 in revenue.”

Humana Buying Two Hospice Chains.

The [New York Times](#) (6/22, Abelson, Subscription Publication, 19.33M) reported Humana is working with the two private-equity firms, TPG Capital and Welsh, Carson, Anderson & Stowe, “to buy two hospice chains that together would create the industry’s biggest operator with hundreds of locations in dozens of states.” Last year, the group acquired “a division of Kindred Healthcare that offers both home health and hospice care,” and then “in April, the same group said it planned to buy another large hospice outfit, Curo Health Services, owned by another investment firm, Thomas H. Lee Partners.”

Cuomo Says Health Insurance Companies Cannot Discriminate Against Transgender New Yorkers. [AM](#)

[New York](#) (6/24, 591K) reports, “New York will

protect transgender residents, Gov. Andrew Cuomo vowed Sunday, telling the state’s Health Department to issue regulations to prevent health insurance companies from discriminating against transgender New Yorkers.” The move, “he said, was intended to combat the Trump administration’s repeal of a federal regulation that clarifies that the Affordable Care Act’s nondiscrimination protections include those based on gender identity.”

Massachusetts State Legislature Trying To Reconcile Differences Among Healthcare Bills.

The [AP](#) (6/23) reported “Massachusetts House and Senate negotiators will be trying to reconcile differences in major health care bills that have cleared both chambers.” Both chambers passed bills that aim “to stabilize health care costs by narrowing price disparities between large teaching hospitals and smaller community hospitals around Massachusetts.”

Michigan 2019 Budget Keeps Title X Funding For Planned Parenthood.

The [Detroit Free Press](#) (6/22, Shamus, 1.21M) reported that Michigan’s 2019 state budget, which was signed into law Thursday by Gov. Rick Snyder (R), will not shift federal money for pregnancy prevention and family planning services away from Planned Parenthood. According to the article, the budget approved by the Legislature included language that would have moved federal Title X money for family planning services to health clinics and county health departments that do not provide abortions.

Rhode Island House Approves Bill To Expand Mastectomy Coverage.

The [AP](#) (6/24) reports that the Rhode Island House approved legislation that ensures insurance covers all costs for a mastectomy. State law mandated insurance coverage for mastectomies in 2005, but insurers have since instituted high co-pays and deductibles. The new measure will require insurers to cover “all costs, without co-pays and deductibles.”

HUMAN SERVICES NEWS

Proposed Rules For Assisted Living Facilities In DC “Spark Outcry” From

Groups Including AARP. The Washington Post (6/22, Thebault, 15.68M) reports that “scores of seniors and advocates crowded into a hearing room Friday” to oppose proposed legislation that would prohibit assisted living residences from admitting anyone who “is or has ever been diagnosed with moderate to severe dementia, or requires hospice care.” The Alzheimer’s Association and AARP also “want to remove another provision that would require residents who may be at risk of wandering to carry identification that includes their name and the name, address and phone number of their facility,” arguing that doing so would be a violation of privacy.

Wisconsin Foster Care Task Force Issues Report With Recommended Changes, Improvements. The AP (6/23) said Wisconsin’s Task Force On Foster Care issued its final report Thursday which indicated that the state “should provide children more education and career training.” The report also recommends a focus on drug abuse.

Mother Offers Tips For Getting Good Healthcare For Children With Disabilities. Jamie Davis Smith, a Washington-based mother of four, wrote in the Washington Post (6/22, 15.68M) that as the parent of a child with disabilities, she is “all too familiar with the ins and outs of dealing with doctors, navigating the medical system and advocating for my daughter to get the best care possible.” Smith discussed “some things that may help you get the best care for your children” with disabilities.

Report Shows Parent Drug Abuse A Factor In Many Child Welfare Cases In Indiana. The AP (6/23) discussed a review of Indiana’s “troubled” child welfare agency found that parental drug abuse has led to a surge in children removed from their homes. The AP wrote, “Exacerbated by the opioid epidemic, parental drug abuse was a factor in the removal of 7,015 children from their homes in 2017. That accounts for 55 percent of all removals that year – up from just 28 percent in 2013.” But while the Department of Child Services spent more than \$24.9 million on drug testing, only \$4.5 million was spent on treatment, the report found.

Family Separation Is A Problem For US Citizens, Too. The New York Times (6/22, Dewan, Subscription Publication, 19.33M) reported on the various ways the US government separates families amid the controversy taking place at the US-Mexico border. The Times said the US government also separates children from family in the event of incarceration, and when removing children from troubled homes and placing children into foster care.

The Philadelphia Inquirer (6/22, 1.07M) wrote in an editorial that the “sad truth is that the United States has multiple policies – particularly related to the criminal justice system and child protective services – that separate children from their parents on a daily basis.”

US Policies Do Not Support American Families. The New York Times (6/24, Badger, Miller, Subscription Publication, 19.33M) reports on the “deep contradiction about the family in American politics: Families make powerful symbols, valuable to politicians and revered by voters. But American policies are inconsistent and weak, relative to many countries, in supporting them.” The Times highlights the Trump Administration’s separation of immigrant children from their parents at the Mexican border, and adds that “the contradiction is also clear in many other realms, say critics on both the right and left: criminal justice, child welfare, family leave, child care, health care and education.”

Adoption Rates In Minnesota Experience “Sharp Decline.” The Minneapolis Star Tribune (6/22, Prather, 1.16M) reported on the “sharp decline” of adoption numbers in Minnesota and said it “is the result of fewer unplanned pregnancies, less stigma associated with single motherhood, and changes to laws governing international adoption.” According to the article, “in 2014, the most recent year for which data are available, there were an estimated 1,563 adoptions in Minnesota. Less than a decade earlier, there were 2,900 per year.”

Indiana Child Support Seeks Comments On State Guidelines. The AP (6/24) reports that Indiana’s Domestic Relations Committee of the Judicial Conference of Indiana is seeking comments on Indiana’s Child Support Guidelines. According to the AP, the guidelines are used to make decisions about child

support in dissolutions of marriage, legal separations, paternity cases, and all other actions for child support.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS

Op-Ed Considers Analysis Of US' Pandemic Preparedness. Erin Blakemore wrote in the Washington Post (6/22, 15.68M) about contributor Ed Yong's feature for the Atlantic suggesting the US may not be prepared for a pandemic. Yong examining the "worst-case scenario: a public-health system caught off guard by a pandemic that spirals out of control," observing that too often in such cases, "a large-scale epidemic takes over public attention, then fades into obscurity when the danger subsides, taking public funding and the wherewithal to build better safeguards with them," according to the piece. Blakemore said that Yong "builds a convincing case for a national lack of preparedness that...could spell disaster when a new pandemic comes knocking," and "worries about President Trump's ability to take on an outbreak, especially given that he has left key positions unfilled."

US Unprepared To Manage Epidemic Of Diseases Borne By Ticks, Insects, Experts Say. On its website, CNN (6/24, Cohen, Bonifield, 82.6M) reports on the growing threat ticks and insects pose because of their capacity to quickly spread Lyme diseases and other ailments. According to CNN, "For years, experts have voiced concern that many local public health agencies are unprepared to control such pests and limit the spread of the diseases." The piece notes that a report by "the National Association of County and City Health Officials says 84% of programs to control diseases from mosquitoes need improvement," adding, "In 18 states, every program is falling short." One expert is quoted as saying, "We're, simply put, not ready, and we should be."

Obama "Ebola Czar" Worries That Trump Administration May Not Address A Pandemic Effectively. The Atlantic (6/23, Calamur, 3.08M) reported on remarks by Ron Klain, "President Obama's Ebola czar," during the Aspen Ideas Festival cohosted

by The Aspen Institute and The Atlantic. Klain discussed the looming threat of a pandemic and the impact of the Trump presidency on response efforts, saying, "There is a real reason for us to be scared of the idea of facing this threat with Donald Trump in the White House" because his "anti-science" stance and isolationist approach to pandemics would "be a serious threat to our security." Klain also spoke of gaps in preparedness related to leadership, funding, facilities and training, scientific understandings, policy, and global intervention.

MEDICARE

Medicare To Provide More Benefits For Chronically Ill. In what the New York Times (6/24, Pear, Subscription Publication, 19.33M) calls "a rare instance of bipartisan cooperation on a major policy initiative," the Trump Administration and Congress are "revamping Medicare to provide extra benefits to people with multiple chronic illnesses, a significant departure from the program's traditional focus that aims to create a new model of care for millions of older Americans." The changes, says the Times, "tackle a vexing and costly problem in American health care: how to deal with long-term illnesses that can build on one another, and the social factors outside the reach of traditional medicine that can contribute to them, like nutrition, transportation and housing." The additional benefits "can include social and medical services, home improvements like wheelchair ramps, transportation to doctor's offices and home delivery of hot meals."

State Officials Say "More Than 300,000" Minnesota Residents To Change Medicare Health Plan Next Year. The Minneapolis Star Tribune (6/22, Snowbeck, 1.16M) reported that Minnesota state officials said "more than 300,000 Minnesotans will be changing Medicare health plans next year...when a federal law eliminates certain health insurance options in the Twin Cities and across much of the state."

Lab Charges Spike At Rural Hospitals. Modern Healthcare (6/23, Bannow, Subscription Publication, 239K) reported on "a trend that's cropped up in recent years: exploding lab charges by some rural hospitals." Modern Healthcare said

insurers have accused rural hospitals of breaching contracts by billing for tests performed elsewhere and on out-of-state patients. The issue is now the subject of lawsuits and a congressional inquiry. According to the article, "an analysis of Medicare cost report data identified 21 hospitals whose outpatient lab charges exceeded 30% of the hospital's total charges in their most recent reports, either 2016 or 2017." The article added that "for comparison, the average outpatient lab-to-total charges ratio among all of the nearly 5,000 hospitals that filed cost reports was less than 9% in 2016 and about 12% so far for 2017."

MEDICAID & CHIP

Experts Debate Medicaid Work Requirements. The Wall Street Journal (6/24, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) reports that new guidelines issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services allow states to impose work requirements on Medicaid beneficiaries, constituting one of the biggest changes in the program's 50-year history. The Journal features a debate between Robert Kaestner, a professor at the University of Illinois Institute of Government and Public Affairs, and Sara Rosenbaum, the Harold and Jane Hirsh Professor in Health Law and Policy at the Milken Institute School of Public Health, who discuss the merits and challenges of imposing Medicaid work requirements.

Michigan Governor Signs Medicaid Work Requirement Bill. The Hill (6/22, Sullivan, 2.71M) reported that term-limited Gov. Rick Snyder (R) on Friday signed a controversial Medicaid work requirement bill. The law requires Medicaid recipients to "work for 80 hours per month, or be in school, job training or substance abuse treatment," but includes exemptions "for people who are disabled, pregnant, children or elderly." The bill previously included a provision exempting "people in counties with high unemployment rates from the work requirements," but that was removed after critics suggested it would disproportionately benefit white rural recipients.

Also reporting were MLive (MI) (6/22, Lawler, 983K) and the Washington Examiner (6/22, Leonard, 340K).

Kansas Health Department Awards Contracts To Three Insurers To

Manage State's Medicaid Program. The AP (6/22) reported the Kansas Department of Health and Environment awarded contracts to three insurers to manage the state's Medicaid program. The state renewed contracts with Sunflower State Health Plan Inc. and United Healthcare Midwest Inc., while the third contract went to Aetna Better Health of Kansas Inc.

The Lawrence (KS) Journal World (6/22, Hancock, 38K) reported the state did not renew its contract with Amerigroup. The article explains that under KanCare, the insurers "are paid a flat, per-person rate for managing the care of Medicaid recipients, including coordinating their care between primary health care providers and specialists, and reimbursing the providers for their services."

The Wichita (KS) Eagle (6/22, Marso, Shorman, 316K) also covered the story.

Montana Advocates Move Closer To Vote Extending Medicaid Expansion. Congressional Quarterly (6/22, Williams, Subscription Publication) reported that last week, Medicaid expansion advocates in Montana submitted to the state what they say are enough signatures to get the issue placed on the ballot this fall. If approved by voters, the initiative would extend the state's Medicaid expansion, which is set to end next year.

Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center Could Lose Medicaid Funding. The AP (6/23) reported that Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center in Texas could lose its Medicaid funding and was notified Friday that Medicare plans to halt funding to its heart transplant program on August 17. Federal officials, "raising concerns about two deaths in May, said the hospital has not done enough to fix shortcomings that endanger patients," according to the article. The AP said the funding withdrawal by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services "would threaten the hospital's viability, experts contend, depriving it of an essential source of funding," and added that the termination "could trigger private insurance companies to follow suit."

Also reporting were the Houston Chronicle (6/22, Hixenbaugh, Ornstein, 2.14M) and ProPublica (6/22, Hixenbaugh, Ornstein, 49K).

Kenosha Boy To Visit Capitol Hill To Support Children's Health. The

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (6/22, Glauber, 596K) reported that 12-year-old Gabe Johnson of Kenosha, Wisconsin will visit Capitol Hill Monday to discuss the importance of Medicaid and other children's health programs. The push is part of Children's Hospital of Wisconsin's Family Advocacy Day.

Child Advocates Oppose South Carolina Medicaid Agency Push To Add Work Requirements. The Charleston (SC) Post and Courier (6/24, Sausser, 292K) reports that child advocates in South Carolina are opposing a move by the South Carolina Medicaid agency to impose work requirements on low-income adults. Child advocates worry the plan will hurt parents and families, according to the article. Medicaid Director Joshua Baker "confirmed his department is negotiating with the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to draft a plan that would require adults on Medicaid to work at least 80 hours per month," the Courier writes.

HEALTH & MEDICAL NEWS

One-Third Of Older Patients Die In Hospital After They Are Put On Ventilators, Study Indicates. The New York Times (6/22, Span, Subscription Publication, 19.33M) reported that research indicates "one-third of patients over age 65 die in the hospital after they are put on ventilators." The findings were published in the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society. According to the Times, physicians "are beginning to wonder if the procedure should be used so often."

Robot-Assisted Radical Cystectomy For Invasive Bladder Cancer Linked To Short-Term Oncologic Outcomes Comparable To That Seen With Open RC, Research Indicates. The Washington Post (6/22, Wan, 15.68M) reported that "robotic-assisted procedures have now become ubiquitous in some kinds of surgeries." According to the Post, "What once was seen as a technological marvel is commonplace in many hospitals." New research published in the Lancet indicated "there were no major differences in outcomes or complication rates in operations for bladder cancer."

Advances In Cancer Treatment Do Not Mean An End To Chemotherapy, According To Cancer Experts. NBC News (6/24, 5.76M) reports that although "cancer therapy is being transformed as immune therapies, targeted treatments based on DNA profiles and personalized treatments make stunning advances in some patients," that does not signal "an end to old-fashioned chemotherapy," according to cancer experts. NBC News adds that "chemotherapy is still a mainstay of most cancer treatment." Dr. Sumanta Pal, a board member of the American Society of Clinical Oncology, said, "I would say that in my practice, it's still the majority that at some point in time will get chemotherapy."

Researchers Discover Compound That Could Stop Cancer Cells From Spreading. Newsweek (6/22, Georgiou, 2.18M) reported that researchers "have discovered" a "compound that could freeze cancer cells in their tracks and stop them from spreading, potentially making them easier to kill." Thus far, however, "the compound," called KBU2046, "has only been tested in models of human cells and so an approved drug based on it is still a long way off." The research was published in Nature Communications.

"Older, Grayer" Workforce Offers Benefits To Employers. The New York Post (6/24, Prafter, 4.46M) reports America is "older, grayer, and ready to compete for your job," as "by 2022, the number of American workers age 50 or older is due to increase by 62 percent, by which time it will make up 35 percent of our workforce, says Susan Weinstock, vice president of financial resilience for [AARP]." Weinstock stated that "people are working well into their golden years," due both to the "labor shortage" and also to employers' discovery of this "untapped resource" that is "highly engaged, much less likely to leave, and value the work." Weinstock also noted the benefits of generationally integrated workforces. The Post highlights a number of "age-friendly recruitment efforts and perks" from various companies, including Goldman Sachs' "returnship" program and Tufts Health Plan's active prioritization of experienced workers.

Tech Companies Should Tap Older Adults To Improve Devices. Similarly, CNBC (6/24, 4.81M) says that with the demonstrated ability of

new technologies from Amazon, Alphabet, and Apple to benefit older adults, the tech sphere can “speed up” its impact by “[hiring] people who understand the needs of this population. In other words, they should hire older Americans.” CNBC interviews several experts on how common devices such as the Amazon Echo could be improved to better serve older adults. A “prevailing myth is that older people are less comfortable with technology than their younger counterparts,” per CNBC, but “in fact, the vast majority of people over 65 have a cellphone,” and AARP and others are responding to the “increased demand” by “offering classes to help older Americans get up to speed with the latest technology, including gadgets and apps to help them live independently for longer.”

Men’s Shed Offers Older Men Community, Activity. The Washington Post (6/22, Fallik, 15.68M) profiled the international program Men’s Sheds, which is “sort of like a Boy scouts for adults,” offering men, “usually of retirement age,” a place to “learn new skills and work together on community projects” with a common set of tools and a community of others with similar interests. The organization’s motto is “shoulder to shoulder,” which describes how many men feel most comfortable relating to others. The idea came together after a public health conference that focused on men’s health issues, among which is social isolation, and AARP Chief Medical Officer Charlotte S. Yeh stated that men “often identify with their job, and when they retire they think they are going to keep the same friends they’ve had in the workplace, but then they find they no longer share the same interests,” and not all can successfully integrate into spousal networks.

Column: Loneliness Affects All Ages But Is Preventable. Health columnist Jane Brody writes for the New York Times (6/25, Subscription Publication, 19.33M) that while modern life seems to “promote connectivity,” it “has had the opposite effect of fostering social isolation and loneliness, experts say.” Brody describes her own experiences with loneliness and social isolation as a young adult, saying that the “18 to 24” age range “has the highest incidence of loneliness, as much as 50 percent higher than occurs among the elderly.” However, Brody acknowledges “it’s not just young people

who are lonely,” as limitations due to chronic illness and mobility issues may struggle with “persistent loneliness.” Brody highlights a program in Georgia that provides opportunities for caregivers to connect over painting, music, and dance “in partnership with AARP” and encourages readers to “consider making a date this week to meet a friend for coffee, dinner, a visit to a museum, or simply a walk,” or “if nothing else, pick up the phone and have a conversation with someone.”

Report Finds Working Longer Can Help Retirement Savers Make Up Savings Shortfalls. Jessica Dickler writes in a piece for CNBC (6/24, 4.81M) that “in a trade-off between working longer or saving more, a recent report found that delaying retirement for just three to six months has the same impact as savings 1 percent more of your salary over 30 years.” The working paper from the National Bureau of Economic Research found that “boosting your retirement contributions by 1 percent for 10 years before retiring has the same effect as working a single month longer.” Furthermore, “delaying Social Security past full retirement age lets your benefits grow by about 8 percent a year.” T. Rowe Price Senior Financial Planner Stuart Ritter warned, however, that people should not “count on working longer to solve a shortfall caused by your not saving enough. Working longer feels more like a contingency than a strategy. The reality is most people want to retire as soon as they can.”

San Francisco Is “Worst” US City For Retires. CNBC (6/24, Mercado, 4.81M) reports that a GoBankingRates analysis says San Francisco is the “worst” city for retirees in the US. It says that San Francisco residents face high living costs.

Substance Abuse A Rising Problem Among Older Adults. The Wall Street Journal (6/23, Ansberry, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) reports on the problem of dealing with an aging parent’s alcohol problem. It says substance abuse is increasing among older adults, and their children are often at a loss about what to do. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration says the number of Americans 65 and older abusing drugs and alcohol is expected to double to 5.7 million by 2020.

AARP CEO Column: Millennials Helping With Caregiving.

In a column in the San Diego Union-Tribune (6/22, 664K), AARP CEO Jo Ann Jenkins wrote that AARP just released a new study, "Millennials: The Emerging Generation of Family Caregivers," that reveals that millennials spend an average of 21 hours per week on caregiving duties. She explained that, compared with older caregivers, "millennials tend to keep it to themselves," with only 19 percent of them telling coworkers. Jenkins added that "perhaps most pressing" issue is caregiving costs, with the average respondent spending \$6,800 per year out of pocket on caregiving expenses.

Adolescents With Eczema May Not Use Topical Corticosteroids As Directed, Study Suggests.

Reuters (6/22, Rapaport) reported researchers found that "adolescents with eczema who are prescribed topical corticosteroids to ease symptoms like itching and inflammation may not use their medicines as directed." The findings were published in JAMA Dermatology.

Patients Receiving Treatment For Neovascular Age-Related Macular Degeneration May Be At Increased Risk Of Vision Loss In Connection With Cataract Surgery, Study Suggests.

MD Magazine (6/22, Warren) reported researchers found "that patients receiving treatment for neovascular age-related macular degeneration (nAMD) have a moderately increased risk of vision loss in connection with cataract surgery which may be related to choroidal neovascular (CNV) lesion activity." The findings were published in the American Journal of Ophthalmology.

US District Court Rules In Favor Of Eli Lilly's Drug Patent.

Reuters (6/22, Sharma) reported a US District Court ruled in favor of Eli Lilly's patent on the Alimta (pemetrexed) vitamin regimen blocking Hospira Inc. and Dr Reddy's Laboratories from launching generics until the patent expires in May 2022. The article points out that the company "has faced several legal challenges to its right to avoid generic competition for" the drug.

Researchers Growing Plants In Space As Potential Source Of New Drugs.

STAT (6/22, Boodman, 27K) reported researchers are growing plants in space at the International Space Station to examine whether the specimens produce molecules that could be used in pharmaceuticals. The article highlights the company Space Tango, which is based in Lexington, Kentucky, and "helps researchers and companies set up experiments on the space station."

FDA May Approve First Cannabis-Derived Drug For Two Forms Of Epilepsy.

The Washington Post (6/23, McGinley, 15.68M) "To Your Health" blog reported the Food and Drug Administration may approve GW Pharmaceuticals' Epidiolex (cannabidiol) "for two of the most severe types of childhood epilepsy" Dravet and Lennox-Gastaut syndromes. If the agency does approve the drug it would be the first cannabis-derived drug approved in the US.

The Scripps Research Institute Is Now Conducting Clinical Trials.

The San Diego Union-Tribune (6/24, Fikes, 664K) reports The Scripps Research Institute (TSRI) is now conducting clinical trials, which the article points out is "typically done by for-profit companies." The article reports that TSRI has long been known for conducting basic research, but an affiliate of the institute "recently started clinical testing of a drug to reverse osteoarthritis by regenerating cartilage." If the drug succeeds, then it may be financially beneficial for TSRI, which "has been running annual deficits as high as \$20 million in recent years."

Oklahoma Conservatives' Views On Medical Marijuana Are Changing.

The AP (6/23, Murphy) reported on the "growing group of traditionally conservative Republican voters in Oklahoma" who have shifted their position on medical marijuana. The AP said residents are set to vote on a measure Tuesday that could add Oklahoma to the increasing list of states that have "legalized some form of pot." The article added, "Among the reddest states in the country, Oklahoma has for decades embraced a tough-on-crime philosophy that includes harsh penalties for drug crimes that has contributed to the state now leading the nation in the percentage of its

population behind bars. But voters' attitudes are changing." In 2016, "Oklahomans voted to make all drug possession crimes misdemeanors over the objection of law enforcement and prosecutors."

California Says 374 Terminally Ill Residents Committed Medically Assisted Suicide In 2017. The AP (6/22, Thompson) reported that 374 terminally ill Californians committed medically assisted suicide in 2017, out of 577 people that received life-ending drugs, the California Department of Public Health revealed Friday. In the first full year the option was legal, 90 percent of those who died were over 60, "about 95 percent were insured and about 83 percent were receiving hospice or similar care."

Trump Administration Resumes Approving Young Physician Visas. Forbes (6/22, 10.34M) contributor Bruce Japsen wrote that the Trump Administration has resumed issuing visas to allow international medical graduates into US residency programs "after a delay – and some denials – of allowing these doctors-in-training into the country." The Association of American Medical Colleges said that "clarifying guidance has been issued internally to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services staff conducting reviews" of medical residents applying for H-1B visas. Japsen said that "the timing of the guidance from USCIS is key. Most residency programs begin by July 1 so delaying non-U.S. international medical graduates is critical."

Another US Embassy Worker Confirmed Hurt By Mystery Cuba Incidents. The AP (6/22, Lederman, Lee) reported medical tests have confirmed that another US embassy worker has been affected by mysterious health incidents in Cuba, the State Department said, bringing the total number to 25. The new "medically confirmed" worker is one of two who were recently evacuated from Cuba after reporting symptoms.

Researchers Using AI To Predict Fatal Conditions. Bloomberg News (6/22, Bass, 4.46M) reported that researchers are using artificial intelligence to examine data points "from hours or even days before the onset of a crisis to

see which combinations of factors might have predicted a fatal condition." However, "a big gap still exists between promising research and clinical success." Because physicians are using these programs to make life-and-death decisions, they "want what they call explainable AI, meaning systems that go beyond a simple warning to offer an explanation of why a patient has been flagged," according to the article.

Minnesota Patients Sedated By Ketamine Were Enrolled In Hennepin Healthcare Study Without Consent. The Minneapolis Star Tribune (6/23, Mannix, 1.16M) reported that Hennepin Healthcare has been conducting studies "for years" on ketamine, which the hospital's leadership says can be vital when paramedics respond to calls of severely agitated or aggressive people. The current study, which began last August requires no consent from patients whose data can be used for research, but gives the subject the option to opt out afterward, according to the article. The role of police allegedly encouraging or directing the use of ketamine by paramedics has generated outrage among community members and elected officials following a Star Tribune investigation.

The Minneapolis Star Tribune (6/23, 1.16M) wrote in an editorial these instances are "a patient education responsibility on which the county-run health care system is falling short." The Star Tribune added, "The responsibility to educate the public and review potential policy changes isn't limited to just the Minneapolis police and City Council. The state's largest county and its leaders must step up and do better." The paper noted that "a physician representing the American College of Emergency Physicians – Dr. Howard Mell of the Chicago area – suggests that ketamine is commonly used by emergency medical personnel in other parts of the country and that 62 uses may be low for a metro area this size."

Walmart Secures Patent For Blockchain-Based Health Records. Fortune (6/22, Mukherjee, 3.91M) reported that Walmart won a patent last week for a system that would house medical records on blockchain. The purpose behind the system is to allow first responders to access medical data from a patient in the case of an emergency when they cannot communicate.

Opinion: Give Women Access To Birth Control To Help Stop Unwanted Pregnancies.

Trudi Inslee, Washington state's first lady and chair of Upstream Washington's advisory council, writes in the Seattle Times (6/24, 1.15M) that Washington is "proudly strengthening our efforts to expand women's health care by launching a public-private partnership to make the full range of birth-control methods more widely available to women." Inslee writes, "To reach this goal, the Washington State Department of Health and the state Health Care Authority will join forces with the nonprofit Upstream USA in support of their mission to expand opportunity across the country by reducing the rate of unplanned pregnancies."

Opinion: Lawmakers Should Begin Investigating CTE In Hockey.

Ken Dryden, a former goaltender for the Montreal Canadiens and member of Canada's Parliament between 2004 and 2011, writes in the Washington Post (6/24, 15.68M) about recent video depositions related to a concussion lawsuit brought against the National Hockey League by about 150 former players that show several NHL officials denying a correlation between concussions and chronic traumatic encephalopathy. Dryden says "just as Congress held its first hearing about brain injuries and professional football in 2009, lawmakers in the United States and Canada must surely be readying themselves to start asking questions about the slippery sport of hockey."

Experts Debate Whether Physicians Should Ask Patients About Gun Use.

The Wall Street Journal (6/24, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) features an interview with Paul Hsieh, a physician and co-founder of Freedom and Individual Rights in Medicine, and Megan Ranney, an associate professor at Alpert Medical School at Brown University, in which they debate the question of whether physicians should make it part of their routine to talk to patients about gun use.

More Hospitals Launching Online Price Estimators To Improve Transparency.

Modern Healthcare (6/23, Meyer, Subscription Publication, 239K) reported that a growing number of hospitals is working with vendors to offer online price estimates of common

services. The move follows growing demand from patients in high-deductible health plans who want to shop around and know their financial exposure in advance. Modern Healthcare added that providers "face mounting pressure from regulators and consumers to be transparent about costs, especially given increasing public anger about unexpected large bills." The article said "CMS recently proposed a rule requiring hospitals to publish online a list of their standard charges in a machine-readable format and update the information at least once a year."

Sleep Apnea Treatment May Be Associated With Improved Sex Life, Study Suggests.

Reuters (6/22, Rapaport) reported that research suggests "adults with sleep apnea...may have a better sex life when they wear breathing masks to bed." In the study, participants with the condition "were all prescribed nighttime treatment with masks connected to a machine that provides continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP)." Researchers found that a "year later, the...patients who stuck with CPAP treatment had greater improvements in sexual quality of life than the 110 people who didn't keep up with treatment." The findings were published in JAMA Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery.

Analysis: Americans Entering Retirement In Worse Financial Shape Than Previous Generation.

The Wall Street Journal (6/22, Gillers, Tergesen, Scism, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) covered its analysis of older Americans' financial preparedness for retirement, showing that more than 40 percent of households headed by people aged 55 through 70 do not have enough resources to maintain their standard of living in retirement. The study indicated that Americans entering retirement have high average debt and limited retirement funds.

Nursing Home Surveillance Cameras Prompt Divisions Among Providers, Advocates.

Next Avenue (6/22, 25K) evaluated the pros and cons of adding a security camera to a loved one's nursing home room in light of the fact that nationwide, "state legislatures are weighing in on" the technology, which "advocates say could help prevent or catch elder abuse and neglect." The article noted that in New Jersey, the state loans "hidden cameras to any

family who suspects their loved one is being mistreated in a long-term care facility.” Jon Dolan, president and CEO of the Health Care Association of New Jersey, said, “Now, if this were done on a recording device with the sanctioning of law enforcement in a probable cause situation and we needed to keep it confidential, I would fully advise my facilities to participate in such an investigation. ... But the idea that we’re just going to give these cameras out to people and let them do whatever they want with them because the Attorney General says so? I don’t think so.”

People Fearing Onset Of Alzheimer’s Turn To Lifestyle Changes After Drug Candidates Fail. The Boston Globe (6/24, Weisman, 945K) reports that many people who fear developing Alzheimer’s disease “are turning to research that suggests lifestyle changes – from fitness regimens and brain games to better diets and social interactions – might help stave off the disease or push back its onset.” The trend comes as people await drugs that could ward off the disease, although the Globe says failure after failure “has dashed hopes for a medical miracle.”

Roche Touts Trial Showing Tecentriq Cocktail Improved Survival In Small Cell Lung Cancer. Reuters (6/25, Miller) reports that on Monday, Roche “said...a cocktail of its immunotherapy Tecentriq with chemotherapy boosted survival of patients with previously untreated extensive-stage small cell lung cancer compared with chemotherapy alone.” In a statement, the company said, “These are the first positive Phase III survival results for any immunotherapy-based combination in the initial treatment of extensive-stage small cell lung cancer.”

Cruise Ship With Norovirus Outbreak Stops In Alaska. The AP (6/22) reported the CDC recently said it detected an outbreak of norovirus on a cruise ship docked in Alaska. So far, media reports indicate 73 people have been sickened “on the Holland America cruise ship Zaandam...which is carrying more than 2,000 passengers and crew.”

Ohio Declares Statewide Hepatitis A Outbreak. The AP (6/22) reported the Ohio health department “says it’s declaring a statewide outbreak of hepatitis A” after officials have

counted 79 cases this year, many of which “are linked to a multi-state outbreak in neighboring states.” This year’s cases “are nearly twice as many than what was reported all of last year.”

Florida Teen Becomes First Human Case Of Keystone Virus. USA Today (6/22, May, 11.4M) reported a 16-year-old Florida teen has become the “first confirmed case of the Keystone virus in humans...leading researchers to believe the virus could be widespread” in the northern part of the state. The article said, “University of Florida identified the Keystone virus in the teenager after he visited an urgent care clinic in North Central Florida in August of 2016,” and medical experts “suspected he had Zika virus.” Upon determining it was Keystone virus, researchers published a report of his case “earlier this month in the peer-reviewed medical journal Clinical Infectious Diseases.”

HIV-Positive Community Celebrates CDC’s Acknowledgment That Treatment Can Nearly Eliminate Risk Of Transmission. The Spokane (WA) Spokesman-Review (6/24, Alexander, 164K) reports that the “CDC’s acknowledgment that people in treatment” for HIV “can get to a place where they can’t transmit the virus feels like a new step for the HIV-positive community.” According to the article, the agency “finally acknowledged what years of research has shown: HIV-positive people in treatment who have an undetectable amount of the virus in their blood have ‘virtually no risk’ of transmitting the virus sexually to another person,” recognition which many people who are HIV-positive have celebrated.

New Jersey Health Officials Warn About Measles Exposure. The Newark (NJ) Star-Ledger (6/22, Livio, 1.58M) reported that people who visited a Burlington County, New Jersey, gym or medical offices in Burlington and Camden counties this month “may have been exposed to measles, the state Health Department announced Friday.” A person who was infected “who had just returned from an international trip visited a gym,” physician offices, and Virtua Memorial Hospital. Officials warned that people who were exposed may not have developed symptoms yet.

Maine, New Hampshire Beset By Whooping Cough Outbreaks. Seacoast Online (NH) (6/23, LaCasse, 39K) reported that cases of whooping cough are rising Exeter, New Hampshire, and “York, Maine, have experienced outbreaks of the respiratory disease in their schools.” Exeter High School has seen 22 cases, and in York, officials confirmed six cases, “which according to the Maine Center for Disease constitutes a outbreak because there were three or more confirmed cases in 21 days.”

Op-Ed: Too Few Older Cancer Patients Included In Immunotherapy Studies. Ankur R. Parikh, DO, medical director of precision medicine at Cancer Treatment Centers of America, wrote in a piece published in Oncology Times and carried by STAT (6/22, Parikh, 27K) that cancer immunotherapy may not be as effective for patients over the age of 65, “who make up half of cancer patients.” Parikh explained that these patients are “poorly represented in clinical trials,” and noted that because “immunosensescence may change patients’ responses to drug therapies, we can’t predict responses to it among older individuals based on studies that included only non-geriatric populations.” Parikh called for future studies to include more older cancer patients to improve treatment outcomes.

Debate Continues On Whether Robotic Prostate Surgery Is Better Than Traditional Surgery. The Wall Street Journal (6/24, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) reports that robotically assisted laparoscopy is starting to replace traditional open surgery for patients with prostate cancer. The Journal examines the debate on whether using the technology improves outcomes enough to outweigh its higher cost.

Opinion: Iowa Attorney General Is “Completely Right” About Youth Smoking, E-Cig Use. Joel Nocera writes in Bloomberg View (6/22, 4.46M) that Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller is making the case that youth use of Juul “was much ado about not a whole lot” because around 80 percent of use by teenagers “is experimental.” He added that there is little evidence that young peoples’ use of e-cigarettes leads to cigarette smoking. Nocera adds, “And if

you look at the statistics, you’ll see that he’s completely right about what’s been happening to youth smoking.”

One In Five Parents Don’t Talk To Kids About Safety Issues At Amusement Parks, Poll Finds. Reuters (6/22, Crist) reported, “One in five parents don’t talk to their kids about safety issues at amusement parks, especially what to do if they get lost,” researchers concluded after analyzing data from “a poll by the C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital in Ann Arbor, Michigan.” The poll data were “based on responses from more than 1,200 parents with at least one child between ages 5 and 12 in early 2018.”

Exposure To Medical Marijuana Advertising May Contribute To Increased Use Through Adolescence, Behavioral Scientist Says. In a perspective piece for the Washington Post (6/22, D’amico, 15.68M) “Health & Science” blog, Elizabeth J. D’amico, PhD, “a clinical psychologist and senior behavioral scientist at the Rand Corporation,” wrote, “Since recreational marijuana became legal this year, advertising for the drug has gotten out ahead of regulations that could restrict where and how teens are exposed to such promotional displays.” D’amico cited research finding that “teens who reported seeing more medical marijuana advertising were more likely to report having used marijuana in the previous 30 days, and they were more likely to say they expected to use it within the next six months.” D’amico observed, “These responses suggest that exposure to medical marijuana advertising may not only play a significant role in shaping teen attitudes about the drug but it may also contribute to increased use and related negative consequences throughout adolescence.”

ACOG Releases Immunization Guide For Pregnant Women. NPR (6/25, Simmons-Duffin, 3.55M) reports that for the first time, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists “has released a one-page immunization guide for pregnant women that spells all of this out.” The goal “is for it to be easily posted in doctors’ offices, ‘so that it becomes more automatic and part of everyday prenatal care,’ says Dr. Laura Riley, one of the guide’s

authors and chair of the ACOG immunization work group.”

Scientists Developing Process To Form Blood Vessels To Simulate Heart Disease, Test Drugs.

STAT Plus (6/22, Cooney, Subscription Publication, 27K) reported on a process developed by Marsha Rolle, associate professor of biomedical engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, to build a “more accurate model of healthy blood vessels as well as damaged ones, hoping to learn more about cardiovascular diseases and whether drugs will effectively treat them.” The article explained, “Based on this model, she and collaborators at Yale have created blood vessels derived from the cells of people with a genetic heart condition, supraventricular aortic stenosis, recapitulating the disease in a test tube.”

Venture Capitalist Explains Investments In Artificial Intelligence.

STAT Plus (6/22, Robbins, Feuerstein, Garde, Subscription Publication, 27K) interviewed Vijay Pande, a venture capitalist, to discuss how life sciences firms are using and investing in artificial intelligence. Pande explained, “I think traditionally there have been two types of investors,” tech investors and biotech investors, “and I think what we’ve been doing, and others as well, as I think really are a new type of investing, where these are companies that are in health care and biology, but they can be built like tech companies, and so they have to have elements of both.” Pande adds, “So they have to have the rigor to...make sure that test is accurate, to understand even just what you have to do to get into market, but also to build a company like a tech company, to build it by engineering.”

Senators Ask FTC To Examine Pay-To-Delay Agreements On Biosimilars.

STAT Plus (6/22, Silverman, Subscription Publication, 27K) reported that Sens. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and Chuck Grassley (R-IA) are asking the Federal Trade Commission to investigate “whether so-called pay-to-delay deals are preventing biosimilars from reaching Americans sooner than the drugs would otherwise and, consequently, are increasing costs for the health care system.” In a letter to the FTC, “The lawmakers did not allege the companies have violated antitrust laws, but they wrote to the FTC

that ‘while such terms in patent settlement agreements may not always be inappropriate, the incentives for parties to delay biosimilar entry are present, and biologic markets could be susceptible to patent settlement abuse.’”

GLOBAL HEALTH

Algeria Abandons 13,000 Migrants In The Sahara.

The AP (6/25, Hinnant) reports that Algeria “has abandoned more than 13,000 people in the past 14 months, including pregnant women and children, stranding them without food or water and forcing them to walk, sometimes at gunpoint, under temperatures of up to 48 degrees Celsius (118 degrees Fahrenheit).” In Niger, “where the majority head, the lucky ones limp across a desolate 15-kilometer (9-mile) no-man’s-land to Assamaka, less a town than a collection of unsteady buildings sinking into drifts of sand.” Others, “disoriented and dehydrated, wander for days before a U.N. rescue squad can find them. Untold numbers perish along the way.”

Non-Invasive Malaria Test Wins Africa Prize For Engineering Innovation.

The AP (6/24, Muhumuza) reports Brian Gitta, a 25-year-old Ugandan computer scientist, recently won “a prestigious engineering prize for a non-invasive malaria test kit that he hopes will be widely used across Africa.” Gitta won the Africa Prize for Engineering Innovation, which is bestowed by “the Royal Academy of Engineering in Britain [and] comes with £25,000 (\$32,940),” for his “test kit known as Matibabu” which shines “a red beam of light onto a finger to detect changes in the shape, color and concentration of red blood cells, all of which are affected by malaria. The results are sent within a minute to a computer or mobile phone linked to the device.”

Ebola Vaccines Help Foster Improvements To Outbreak Response Efforts.

Scientific American (6/23, Maron, 3.12M) reported on the role of Ebola vaccines due to an outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in sparking improvements to outbreak response strategies. In the DRC, 1,611 people have been vaccinated with a candidate from Merck, and in tandem with a shot from Doctors Without Borders, “in total more than 3,000 vaccines have been administered in the country.” While public health officials “say they are far from

declaring the outbreak over,” they continue to keep “careful surveillance” as they tackle “the difficulties of continuing to monitor the vaccinated individuals for the three-week period following their shots.”

Op-Ed: Hong Kong Should Pass Official Policy Encouraging Older Workers. Anisha Bhaduri writes for China Daily (6/25, 5K) that rising life expectancies and growing older populations mean “Hong Kong must make concrete efforts to retain elderly people in the workforce,” as residents 65 and over will make up almost 40 percent of the city’s population by 2066. The statistics have special “poignancy” due to the recent “retirement of Hong Kong’s legendary entrepreneur Li Ka-shing just shy of 90 and the election of Mahathir Mohamad as Malaysia’s prime minister at 92,” which dismantles “the conventional perception when it comes to the elderly.” While Hong Kong currently “has no official retirement age...perceptions seem to be changing with more and more companies willing to retain employees beyond 60,” and Bhaduri encourages Hong Kong to pass an “official retirement policy” that “will not only lend a formal structure to workforce management, but also put in place guidelines aimed at enhancing productivity with a specific demographic reality in mind.”

Older Chinese Villagers Benefit From Yoga Pursuits. The New York Times (6/24, Wee, Chen, Subscription Publication, 19.33M) reports the residents of Yugouliang, China have undergone a yoga revolution, led by one official who “had a eureka moment” for an “audacious plan that seemed out of place” in the small village, where the average age is 65 and most residents “survive by tending to their cows and sheep and small plots of land.” Despite initial skepticism, ultimately, a village team entered in a provincial competition and won an award for “best collective team.” While the original plan to “[set] off a tourism boom could be difficult to achieve” due to the remote nature of the village, according to the Times, the “yoga-strengthened residents...save on medical costs” and report reduced pain. The Times identifies “China’s rapidly aging population [as] one of the most pressing issues facing the ruling Communist Party,” saying that “at least 50 million older Chinese have been left behind by the

country’s economic boom” in rural regions, and “many struggle with poverty and depression.”

NATIONAL NEWS

GOP Lawmakers Say DOJ Less Than Cooperative With House Russia Investigation. The Washington Times (6/24, Mordock, 460K) reports that Rep. Mark Meadows (R-NC) on Saturday “challenged” an AP report which said the Justice Department had given lawmakers documents related to the investigation of Russian election meddling. Meadows tweeted, “New reports of DOJ/FBI compliance with document requests are NOT accurate. While they have turned over additional documents, the new documents represent a small percentage of what they owe. The notion that DOJ/FBI have been forthcoming with Congress is false.”

Meanwhile, House Judiciary Chairman Bob Goodlatte told Fox News’ Sunday Morning Futures (6/24, Bartiromo, 1.45M) that some of the text messages between Peter Strzok and Lisa Page “have been very enlightening” but “they raise as many questions as they answer.” Goodlatte added that “there is a lot of question about the cooperation of the FBI because of the concern there are people still there that don’t want the information we need to be provided.” And “that’s why I issued a subpoena that resulted in changes. ... We have an office at the Department of Justice, a reading room where a million documents reside” and “we can examine all of those documents.” Rep. Peter King (R-NY) said on Fox News’ Sunday Morning Futures (6/24, Bartiromo, 1.45M) that there is “continual bad faith from the FBI and the Department of Justice.” He said, “This was delayed and delayed. We got this response” and “the response is inadequate.”

Rep. John Ratcliffe (R-TX) said on Fox News’ Sunday Morning Futures (6/24, Bartiromo, 1.45M), “What’s remarkable is that it wasn’t partisan Republicans” but “this is the FBI’s own independent referee saying he’s deeply troubled and concerned that it is Peter Strzok and other Trump hating agents...collecting evidence and making every decision for the first nine months of the investigation that by definition is prejudicial to the fair...administration of justice.”

Warner: “Buckle Up” For More Revelations From Mueller. The Washington Examiner (6/24, Lim, 340K) reports

that in remarks at the DSCC's annual Majority Trust retreat on Martha's Vineyard on Friday, Sen. Mark Warner, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee, told those in attendance "that they should 'buckle up' for more revelations in the Russia investigation in the coming months, boastfully joking that there was information only known to himself and special counsel Robert Mueller." Warner quipped, "If you get me one more glass of wine, I'll tell you stuff only Bob Mueller and I know. ... If you think you've seen wild stuff so far, buckle up. It's going to be a wild couple of months."

Trump To Campaign For McMaster In South Carolina Today. In what the AP (6/24, Kinnard) casts as the next test of President Trump's "effort to bend the Republican Party to his will," South Carolina voters on Tuesday will "choose between two GOP gubernatorial candidates who both claim to be Trump acolytes." Trump has backed his longtime supporter incumbent Gov. Henry McMaster, "who failed to win the GOP primary outright earlier this month," and faces a runoff election "against businessman John Warren, a first-time politico who some see as more like Trump himself." The AP says the race "is coming down to a question of loyalty. The White House is throwing everything at its disposal into the race to save McMaster, who went out on a political limb for Trump at a crucial point in the 2016 Republican presidential primaries." Trump has tweeted several times in support of McMaster over the past week, and he "will stump for McMaster on Monday afternoon in West Columbia."

Trump Mistakenly Endorses Wrong Clay Higgins On Twitter. The Washington Examiner (6/24, Lim, 340K) reports President Trump "faced a hurdle on Sunday in properly thanking and endorsing" Rep. Clay Higgins (R-LA) "for his support of the Trump administration's agenda when he 'mentioned' the wrong Clay Higgins on Twitter." In a tweet that has since been corrected, Trump said, "@ClayHiggins18 has been a great help to me on Cutting Taxes, creating great new healthcare programs at low cost, fighting for Border Security, our Military and are Vets. He is tough on Crime and has my full Endorsement. The Great State of Louisiana, we want Clay!" The Examiner notes that Twitter user @ClayHiggins18 "appears to be a Georgia Tech

student, who has a private account on the social media platform," whereas the Louisiana Republican's Twitter handle is @RepClayHiggins.

Trump Criticizes Fallon For Not Being "A Man" After Interview. The Washington Examiner (6/24, Lim, 340K) reports President Trump called on late night host Jimmy Fallon to "be a man" on Sunday after "multiple reports that Fallon regrets ruffling the hair of the then-presidential candidate in an interview before the 2016 election, despite Trump's claims Fallon called him shortly after the appearance to say the pair earned 'monster ratings.'" Trump tweeted, "@jimmyfallon is now whimpering to all that he did the famous 'hair show' with me (where he seriously messed up my hair), & that he would have now done it differently because it is said to have 'humanized' me-he is taking heat. He called & said 'monster ratings.' Be a man Jimmy!"

Virginia Restaurant Owner Does Not Regret Ejecting Sanders. USA Today (6/24, Bacon, 11.4M) reports that White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders' "unceremonious eviction" from the Red Hen restaurant in Lexington, Virginia. The restaurant's Facebook page "was awash with commentary, much of it bitterly criticizing owner Stephanie Wilkinson" for asking Sanders to leave. Other comments were in support of the restaurant. The Washington Times (6/24, Richardson, 460K) reports that Wilkinson has "no regrets" about asking Sanders to leave, and she "insisted Saturday she would do it all over again, saying people need to 'uphold their morals.'" Wilkinson told the Washington Post, "I would have done the same thing again. ... We just felt there are moments in time when people need to live their convictions. This appeared to be one." For her part, Sanders tweeted on Saturday, "Last night I was told by the owner of Red Hen in Lexington, VA to leave because I work for @POTUS and I politely left. Her actions say far more about her than about me. I always do my best to treat people, including those I disagree with, respectfully and will continue to do so."

ABC World News Tonight (6/24, story 4, 0:55, Johnson, 14.63M) reported that at the restaurant, there are "signs offering appreciation on the front door, next to bouquets of flowers," while others are "outraged," with "Yelp flooded with one-star reviews [and] the restaurant's online menu hacked."

The Washington Post (6/24, Jordan, 15.68M) calls “the public shaming and shunning of political figures while they are going about their private lives” a “rising phenomenon” resulting from the “anger and division in American politics,” while the Washington Times (6/24, Richardson, Boyer, 460K) calls the incident the latest example of “the escalating public hostility directed at President Trump and his aides, raising concerns among some conservatives about the potential for partisan-inspired violence.”

In an op-ed for USA Today (6/24, 11.4M), Joseph R. Murray II, a civil rights attorney and administrator of LGBTTrump, a civil rights attorney and a political commentator, writes that “the idea that people would be denied service because of who they are or what they think is antithetical to a free society.” Noting that Wilkerson “said her decision to deny Sanders service was due, in part, to the fact that the Red Hen employs members of the LGBT community,” Murray questions how gay employees could “lobby for the ejection of Sanders” after gays have for decades “been denied service and have pleaded for tolerance.” Murray argues that they “had the opportunity to be the bigger person and show that, in America, political foes can break bread rather serve up a cold dish of revenge” but they “passed on that opportunity and showed the nation that pettiness trumps principle.”

Shaub: Sanders Tweet Violated Ethics Rule. The Washington Times (6/24, Richardson, 460K) reports that Walter Shaub, who served as director of the Office of Government Ethics under President Obama, said Sanders “violated the Code of Federal Regulations by using her official Twitter account to respond Saturday to the flurry of media coverage.” In response to Sanders’ tweet, Shaub tweeted, “Sarah, I know you don’t care even a tiny little bit about the ethics rules, but using your official account for this is a clear violation of 5 CFR 2635.702(a). It’s the same as if an ATF agent pulled out his badge when a restaurant tried to throw him/her out.”

Waters: Administration Officials Will Be Harassed In Public. Breitbart (6/24, Key, 1.28M) reports that Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA) told MSNBC Saturday that members of the Trump Administration can expect to be harassed in stores, restaurants, and gas stations. Waters said, “I have no sympathy for these people that are in this Administration who know it’s wrong for what they’re doing on so many fronts. They tend to not

want to confront this president or even leave, but they know what they’re doing is wrong. I want to tell you, these members of his cabinet who remain and try to defend him, they won’t be able to go to a restaurant, they won’t be able to stop at a gas station, they’re not going to be able to shop at a department store. The people are going to turn on them. They’re going to protest.”

Cummings: Restaurant Should Not Have Ejected Sanders. However, Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-MD) took a different view of the Sanders situation. The New York Post (6/24, Schwab, 4.46M) reports that in an appearance on CBS’ Face The Nation (6/24, 2.75M), Cummings “said he thought the restaurant owner was wrong for asking...Sanders to leave her eatery.” Cummings said, “I think the restaurant owner should have served her. ... I really do.” Cummings added that “he believed President Trump played a role in the acrimony that led up to the incident.” Said Cummings, “I think President Trump has created this. ... He’s basically given people license to state things that are ugly and those things then turn into actions, as we now see.”

The Wall Street Journal (6/24, Board, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) argues in an editorial that the restaurant’s refusal to serve Sanders, along with DHS Secretary Nielsen being heckled in a Washington restaurant and protested outside her home will be a political benefit to the President, whose voters feel that they are being marginalized. In an editorial, the Washington Post (6/24, Board, 15.68M) says that Administration officials “should be allowed to eat dinner in peace.” The Post argues that while some would say “we are in a special moment justifying incivility,” they “should think for a moment how many Americans might find their own special moment. How hard is it to imagine, for example, people who strongly believe that abortion is murder deciding that judges or other officials who protect abortion rights should not be able to live peaceably with their families?”

Protesters Confront Bondi Outside Mr. Rogers Documentary. The AP (6/24, Sentinel) reports that Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi was confronted by protesters “at a showing of a documentary about children’s TV host Fred Rogers, and they questioned the Republican’s stands on immigration and health care.” According to the Tampa Bay Times, Bondi was given a police escort Friday “when several

members of Organize Florida confronted her as she left a Tampa theater after seeing 'Won't You Be My Neighbor' about Mr. Rogers." The group "questioned Florida joining a lawsuit against the Affordable Care Act and Bondi's general support of President Donald Trump's immigration policies."

The New York Post (6/24, Lapin, 4.46M) reports that Whitney Ray, a spokesperson for Bondi "said the confrontation was more violent than the video posted by protesters showed." Ray said in an email, "The video they are choosing to share is of the least aggressive portion of the attack that transpired after police arrived to control the scene. What they are not sharing publicly are several previous encounters involving large men getting in the Attorney General's face, spitting and blocking her exit." The Daily Caller (6/24, Kruta, 420K) reports that Bondi said of the incident, "We were in a movie about anti-bullying and practicing peace and love and tolerance and accepting of people for their differences. That's what Mr. Rogers is all about. We all believe in free speech, but there's a big difference there."

Flake: Senate Shouldn't Vote On Trump Judges Until There Is A Vote On Tariffs. Breitbart (6/24, Key, 1.28M) reports that Sen. Jeff Flake told ABC's This Week (6/24, 2.72M) that senators "should stand up to President Donald Trump by not approving any more judges until they get votes on things like tariffs." Flake said, "I can tell you Republicans need to stand up on issues like tariffs. ... I do think unless we can actually exercise something other than approving the President's executive calendar, his nominees, judges that we have no reason to be there. I think myself and a number of senators at least a few of us, will stand up and say let's not move any more judges until we get a vote, for example, on tariffs."

The Washington Post (6/24, Weigel, 15.68M) says Flake has so far "supported all of the White House's key judicial nominees, but the threat of a rebellion on one of the issues that has most united conservatives behind the president drew friendly fire." In a tweet, Rep. Paul Gosar (R-AZ) "mocked Flake's 'hissy fit' and said he looked forward to the end of his colleague's term this year."

Ethics Watchdogs Warn Administration Over Politicizing Presidential Coins. The New York Times (6/24, Vogel, Subscription Publication, 19.33M)

reports that since the Clinton Administration, "commemorative medallions known as challenge coins have been stately symbols of the presidency coveted by the military, law enforcement personnel and a small circle of collectors." President Trump, however, has "yielded more – and more elaborate – coins that are shinier, flashier and even bigger." Trump's aides have commissioned "multiple versions of an official challenge coin," and one design "approved by Mr. Trump and paid for by the Republican National Committee, is thicker, wider and more gold than those of preceding presidents," and bears his campaign slogan "Make America Great Again." Amid concerns of "running afoul of rules barring government resources from being used for partisan political purposes, the White House Counsel's Office warned staff members not to display the Republican National Committee's challenge coin, or any paraphernalia with Mr. Trump's campaign slogan, in government buildings."

Bossie Apologizes For Saying Black Panelist Is Out Of His "Cotton-Picking Mind." Politico (6/24, Griffiths, 3.51M) reports that former Trump campaign official David Bossie has apologized for telling a Fox News panelist who is black that he was out of his "cotton-picking mind." Bossie "grew increasingly agitated during the Sunday morning segment, which included discussion of Democrats and others who have described the Trump administration's policy toward separating families that cross the border illegally as akin to Nazi actions during the Holocaust." Joel Payne, a former aide to Sen. Harry Reid, "interjected as Bossie appeared ready to list others who had made similar comparisons, causing Bossie to exclaim, 'You're out of your cotton-picking mind.'" Payne replied, "Cotton picking mind? ... Brother, let me tell you something, I've got some relatives who picked cotton."

The Washington Times (6/24, Richardson, 460K) reports that after the segment, "Fox News host Ed Henry said the phrase was 'obviously offensive.'" Later Sunday, Bossie apologized in a tweet, writing, "During a heated segment on Fox & Friends today, I should have chosen my words more carefully and never used the offensive phrase that I did. I apologize to Joel Payne, Fox News and its viewers."

USA Today (6/24, Hayes, 11.4M) reports that Fox News issued a statement "saying Bossie's comments were 'deeply offensive and wholly inappropriate.'" The statement added, "His remarks do not reflect the sentiments of Fox News and we do not in any way condone them." The Washington Post (6/24, Selk, 15.68M) says Fox News "declined to comment" when asked "whether Bossie would continue to be invited onto the show."

Bill Clinton Downplays Tarmac Meeting With Lynch. The Washington Times (6/24, Scarborough, 460K) reports that former President Bill Clinton told investigators that he saw nothing wrong with his impromptu meeting with former Attorney General Loretta Lynch on a Phoenix airport tarmac because he did not think the investigation into his wife Hillary Clinton's emails "amounted to much, frankly." The June 27, 2016 meeting, which is "captured in Justice Department Inspector General Michael Horowitz's 500-plus-page report on the Clinton email saga," is "one of the moments most talked about. Some Republicans said the two-term president, by his mere presence, tried to influence the criminal investigation as Mrs. Clinton was running for president." for her part, Lynch "told investigators that she thought the meeting would be no more than a greeting. But Mr. Clinton made himself at home and regaled her and her husband in small talk, she told the Justice Department investigators." Clinton "said his motive was innocent."

Wolfe-Watkins Affair Has "Rattled" Washington Journalists. The New York Times (6/24, Grynbaum, Shane, Flitter, Subscription Publication, 19.33M) reports that a three-year affair which began in 2014 between Ali Watkins, then, an intern in the Washington bureau of McClatchy Newspapers, and James Wolfe, "a 50-something senior aide to the Senate Intelligence Committee," is "now part of a federal investigation that has rattled the world of Washington journalists and the sources they rely on." Wolfe "was arrested on June 7 and charged with lying to investigators about his contacts with Ms. Watkins and three other journalists," and Watkins, now a reporter for The New York Times, "had her email and phone records seized by federal prosecutors." The seizure "was alarming to First Amendment advocates," who said that with

"no allegation that classified information was disclosed...such a rare and aggressive tactic was unjustified and could undermine journalists' ability to report on government misconduct."

Barr Says Her Controversial Tweet Was "Misinterpreted." ABC World News Tonight (6/24, story 9, 1:50, Reshef, 14.63M) reported that in "a taped podcast with her spiritual leader," Roseanne Barr claims that the controversial tweets which resulted in the cancellation of her ABC show were "misinterpreted." Barr: "I never would have wittingly called any black person, say they are a monkey. I wouldn't do that. And I didn't do that. And if people think that I did that, it just kills me." ABC added that Barr was "overcome with emotion." Barr: "I definitely feel remorse. I am so sorry, and humiliated, and angry at myself."

Boardroom Table From "The Apprentice" Sold At Auction For \$32,000. The Washington Times (6/24, Harper, 460K) reports that a boardroom table President Trump used as the star of NBC's *The Apprentice* was "sold at auction for \$32,000" Saturday. Officials at Julien's Auctions "originally predicted the table would fetch around \$16,000."

Raju: Trump Drives Up Democrats' Negatives, But Fires Up Democratic Voters. Senior congressional correspondent Manu Raju said on CNN's Inside Politics (6/24, 681K), "Trump has told Republican leaders he is willing to go everywhere. And the question is do they want him everywhere? They know that one thing he does effectively is he drives up the negatives of a Democratic opponent. He is very good at that. But, he also riles up the Democratic base. It is going to be an interesting calculation come the fall as we get into the heat of the general election where middle of the road voters, people may be put off by some of the Trump rhetoric and policies."

Romney Says He'll Back Good Trump Policies, Criticize Bad Ones. The AP (6/24, Whitehurst) reports that Utah US Senate candidate Mitt Romney's primary opponent has "painted him as an outsider who can't get along with President Donald Trump, but Romney has quieted his once-strident criticism." Romney told the AP, "I'm not someone who's going to be a

daily commentator on everything the President says by any means, but if there's something of significance that the President says or does, I feel a moral obligation to express my own view." The AP says that while Romney predicted that Trump would be re-elected in 2020, he "hasn't endorsed him" and he "declined to do so this week, saying it's too early and he expects Trump to have an as-yet-unknown" primary challenger. Nonetheless, "Romney's tone has changed considerably since the 2016 campaign when he called then-candidate Trump a 'phony' and a 'fraud.'" Romney said that "things change after a president is elected," and that "he'll get behind good policies while criticizing bad ones."

Donovan Says NY11 Primary Battle With Grimm Has "Gotten Personal."

The New York Times (6/24, Goldmacher, Subscription Publication, 19.33M) reports that the NY11 primary battle between incumbent Rep. Dan Donovan (R-NY), who has been endorsed by President Trump, and ex-Rep. Michael Grimm "has revolved around Mr. Trump, and which Republican candidate can best carry his mantle in this, the lone Republican-held seat left in New York City." Trump has warned that a Grimm win "could hand the seat to Democrats come November," but Grimm's supporters "choose to look past Mr. Trump's endorsement, to forgive Mr. Grimm's criminal conviction, and pay even less heed to his more moderate record in Congress." They see "a candidate who talks like them and fights for them, just like a certain resident of the White House." Said one Grimm supporters, "Michael Grimm was a Trump before Trump was a Trump." The Times adds that Donovan's and Grimm's "feelings for one another are not masked." Said Donovan, "It's gotten personal."

Michigan Democrats Fear Thanedar Is A "Bizarro-World Trump."

Politico Magazine (6/24, Friess, 3.45M) profiles Michigan gubernatorial candidate Shri Thanedar, calling him "the state's hottest Democrat." Thanedar, "a 63-year-old millionaire chemist and entrepreneur," was "utterly unknown" when he launched his campaign, and on "that blank canvas, he's spent \$3 million and counting in TV ads to paint an image as a [Sen. Bernie] Sanders acolyte with big 'progressive' ideas who disarms skeptics of his accent (Thanedar is an Indian immigrant) and his non-European name with endearing, self-effacing

jokes." However, "many Democrats" are "anxious, angry and downright hostile" to his candidacy. Many in the state see his "explosive burst onto the political scene [as] a partisan mirror image of the trajectory of another oddly coiffed, thick-accented businessman-turned-politician," and like President Trump. "Democrats here question what Shri Thanedar really believes" and fear their party is "about to be rocked by their own Bizarro-World Trump."

Maryland Gubernatorial Race A Test Of Sanders Backers' Ability To Win Primaries.

The New York Times (6/24, Ember, Burns, Subscription Publication, 19.33M) reports that Maryland's Democratic gubernatorial primary, in which Sen. Bernie Sanders has endorsed and campaigned for Ben Jealous, has "become a critical test of Mr. Sanders's ability to sway elections." Sanders' "policy agenda has caught on widely among Democratic candidates, and succeeded in moving the party to the left," but "Sanders himself has struggled so far to expand his political base and propel his personal allies to victory in Democratic primaries." Sanders "has endorsed only a handful of candidates in contested primaries, and three of them have recently lost difficult races in Iowa and Pennsylvania."

The Washington Post (6/22, Chason, 15.68M) reports that recent polls show that Jealous and Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker III are the frontrunners in the race. They are trailed by "state Sen. Richard S. Madaleno Jr., who was the first openly gay person elected to the Maryland General Assembly; former Obama appointee Krishanti Vignarajah, a Sri Lankan immigrant; attorney James Shea and tech entrepreneur Alex Ross."

District Of Columbia Council To Consider Lowering Voting Age To 16.

NBC Nightly News (6/24, story 9, 2:00, Snow, 8.26M) reported that a city council hearing is set for this week on a push to extend the right to vote to 16-year-olds in the District of Columbia. NBC (Radford) added that the group Vote16USA is pushing "to lower the voting age to 16, just in time for the next presidential election."

WPost:	Congress	Must	Devise
Permanent	Fix	To	FHFA's
"Temporary"	Housing		Finance

Takeover. A Washington Post (6/24, 15.68M) editorial calls on Congress to come up with a permanent fix to the FHFA's "temporary" takeover of the housing finance system. The Post says that "buried deep within the Trump administration's new plan to reorganize government agencies," was a proposal that "would end the conservatorship of Fannie and Freddie and replace their duopoly with a system in which an array of entities could participate, subject to strict federal regulation of capitalization and underwriting standards."

White: Kagan, Kennedy Opinions Should Encourage Reform Of Administrative State. In an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (6/24, White, Subscription Publication, 6.13M), Adam J. White, a research fellow at the Hoover Institution and director of the C. Boyden Gray Center for the Study of the Administrative State at George Mason University's Antonin Scalia Law School, writes that Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan's majority opinion in *Lucia v. SEC* and Justice Anthony Kennedy's concurring opinion in *Pereira v. Sessions* show the need for the reform and modernization of the administrative state.

Gramm, Ekelund: Income Inequality Helped Elect Trump. In an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (6/24, Gramm, Ekelund, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) adapted from their forthcoming book "Freedom and Inequality," former Senate Banking Chairman Phil Gramm, and Robert Ekelund, a professor emeritus in economics at Auburn University, argue that while talk of income inequality was a major theme of Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign, an analysis by the Cato Institute's John F. Early, found relative equality among the bottom 60% of American earners, due in part to social-welfare spending and economic and wage stagnation during the Obama Administration. As a result, middle-income and lower-middle-income families saw that their hard work left them barely better off than those benefiting from welfare spending. That recognition, they argue, helped elect President Trump.

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP

New York Times. *"It's Time To Integrate New York's Best Schools."* In an editorial, the

New York Times (6/24, Subscription Publication, 19.33M) says New York City's "school system is not only the nation's largest but also its most segregated." Mayor Bill de Blasio "largely ignored this reality for four years," the Times says, but he "has now taken an important step: He has put forward a plan to integrate eight of the city's specialized high schools, storied institutions like Stuyvesant, Bronx Science and Brooklyn Tech." The Times says these schools "have a vital mission, to challenge the city's sharpest young minds," but they have been "failing in that endeavor, because they all but shut out black and Latino students, leaving untold numbers of New York's brightest children behind."

Washington Post. *"Congress Needs To Come Up With A Permanent Fix For Its 'Temporary' Housing-Finance Takeover."* A Washington Post (6/24, 15.68M) editorial calls on Congress to come up with a permanent fix to the FHFA's "temporary" takeover of the housing finance system. The Post says that "buried deep within the Trump administration's new plan to reorganize government agencies" was a proposal that "would end the conservatorship of Fannie and Freddie and replace their duopoly with a system in which an array of entities could participate, subject to strict federal regulation of capitalization and underwriting standards."

"Trump Is Playing A Risky Game Of Chicken." A Washington Post (6/24, 15.68M) editorial takes a negative view of President Trump's trade conflict with China. The Post argues that Trump "is unable to set priorities. Instead of focusing on China, the country with which we and many other nations have the most legitimate grievances, Mr. Trump is simultaneously pursuing trade battles with every major U.S. ally." Trump "not only has decided to play a game of chicken with the U.S. economy. He has decided to play against the whole world."

"Let The Trump Team Eat In Peace." Citing a Virginia restaurant owner's decision to ask White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders to leave her restaurant, the Washington Post (6/24, Board, 15.68M) says in an editorial that Administration officials "should be allowed to eat dinner in peace." The Post argues that while some would say "we are in a special moment justifying incivility," they "should think for a moment how many Americans might find their own special moment. How hard is it to imagine, for example, people who strongly believe that abortion is

murder deciding that judges or other officials who protect abortion rights should not be able to live peaceably with their families?"

Wall Street Journal. "Senate Obstruction In Profile." A Wall Street Journal (6/24, Board, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) editorial criticizes Senate Democrats' treatment of Brian Benczkowski, President Trump's nominee to head the Justice Department's Criminal Division. The Journal argues that Benczkowski is highly qualified for the position and takes issue with Democrats' claims that he has "Russia connections."

"How To Re-Elect Trump." The Wall Street Journal (6/24, Board, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) argues in an editorial that a Virginia restaurant's refusal to serve White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders last weekend, along with DHS Secretary Nielsen being heckled in a Washington restaurant and protested outside her home will be a political benefit to the President, whose voters feel that they are being marginalized.

"Turkey's Authoritarian Choice." The Wall Street Journal (6/24, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) editorializes that even though the outcome of Sunday's vote in Turkey grants President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan vast new authority to expand his increasingly authoritarian rule, the vote revealed a reenergized democratic opposition, underscoring how many voters are unhappy with the slow economic growth, capital flight, and rising inflation under Erdoğan's leadership. Still, the Journal warns, Erdoğan will likely become an even more difficult NATO partner, in part because the Administration has neglected Turkey in its focus on North Korea, Russia, and Iran.

THE BIG PICTURE

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

WALL STREET JOURNAL:

Trump Plans New Curbs On Chinese Investment, Tech Exports To China
Erdogan Extends His Hold In Turkey In Pivotal Election Win
Amid Chaos At Border, Some Immigrant Families Reunite
Short Of Workers, Restaurants Turn To Robots

NEW YORK TIMES:

Erdogan's Election Win Gives Him Vastly Expanded Powers In Turkey
Trump Calls For Depriving Immigrants Who Illegally Cross Border Of Due Process Rights
How An Affair Between A Reporter And A Security Aide Has Rattled Washington Media
In A High-Stakes Environmental Whodunit, Many Clues Point To China
Trump's Trade War Could Shut Cheesemakers Out Of Foreign Markets
Bernie Sanders Is Winning Converts. But Primary Victories Remain Elusive.

WASHINGTON POST:

With More Floods, Fear Also Flows
Separated Families Feel Terror Of The Unknown
Trump Opposes Trials For Migrants
Now On The Menu: Dinner With A Side Of Shaming
If NATO, Russia Clash, U.S. May Stall In Traffic

FINANCIAL TIMES:

Erdogan Claims Victory In Turkey Elections
China Cuts Bank Reserves By \$100BN To Cushion US Tariffs
Italy Disrupts 'Summit To Save Merkel' On Migration

WASHINGTON TIMES:

Is Violence Next? Some Democrats Encourage Aggressive Public Confrontations Against Trump, Aides
Mother, Crying Child In Iconic Photo Have Family Back Home And No Basis To Claim Asylum
Bill Clinton Says Tarmac Meeting With Lynch A Week Before Wife's FBI Interview Was Innocent
Pentagon Can't Work At Warp Speed To Build Trump's 'Space Force'
Chelsea Manning's Senate Campaign In Maryland Falters Toward End
Front-Runner For Mexican President A Known Name But An Uncertain Leftist Leader

STORY LINEUP FROM LAST NIGHT'S NETWORK NEWS:

ABC: Wildfires; Severe Storms; Immigration-Trump Comments; Sarah Sanders-Restaurant Ousting-Reactions; Trump-Republicans-Immigration Bill; Immigration-Reuniting Families; Pittsburgh-Police Fatally Shoot Unarmed Teen-Protests; San Diego-Police Officers Shot; Roseanne Barr-Racist Tweet-Remorse; San Francisco-Woman Calls Cops On 8 Year Old Girl;

Hawaii-Volcano; Germany-Explosion; California-Shark Sightings; Elvis Presley's Jet Up For Auction; Teen Needs Bone Marrow Transplant.

CBS: Immigration-Reuniting Families; Immigration-Dept. Of Homeland Security Plan To Reunite Families; Trump-Republicans-Immigration Bill; Minneapolis-Police Kill African American Man; Wildfires; Saudi Arabia-Women Allowed to Drive; Colorado-Return of Rainbow Trout; Navy Pilot Killed In Plane Crash; Turkey-Elections; New Zealand-Prime Minister Names New Baby; Pride Celebrations; Scotland-Paleontology.

NBC: Immigration-Trump Comments; Immigration-Reuniting Families; Immigration-Psychological Effect On Children; Middle East-US And UK Trying To Bring Peace; Turkey-Elections; Saudi Arabia-Women Allowed to Drive; Opioid Epidemic-Mother's Recovery Center; Alaska Airlines-15 Year Old Helps Blind & Deaf Man; DC-16 Year Olds Want Right To Vote; Pride Celebrations; Facebook-New Tool; Smithsonian National Zoo-Panda Pregnancy; World Cup; Man Calls Members Of His Church On Their Birthdays.

NETWORK TV AT A GLANCE:

Immigration-Reuniting Families – 6 minutes, 55 seconds

STORY LINEUP FROM THIS MORNING'S RADIO NEWS BROADCASTS:

ABC: Trump-DOJ-Stormy Daniels; Trump-Republicans-Immigration Bill; Immigration-Trump Comments; Massachusetts-Hazmat Incident; Wildfire; Box Office.

CBS: Immigration-Trump Comments; Immigration-Protests; Virginia Detention Center Protests; Minneapolis-Police Kill African American Man; Massachusetts-Hazmat Incident; Gas Prices; Trump-DOJ-Stormy Daniels; Wall Street.

FOX: Immigration-Reuniting Families; WH-Defense Secretary Visit To China; Pride Celebrations; NASCAR News.

NPR: Immigration-Trump Comments; Immigration-Atlanta Mayor-Refuses To Jail Migrants; Ethiopia-Grenade Attack; Iowa-Oil Train Derailed.

LAST LAUGHS

Late Night Political Humor.

John Oliver: "We begin with President Trump, the abusive father America will be talking about in therapy for the next 40 years."

John Oliver: "This week saw continued outrage over his zero-tolerance policy causing children to be separated from their parents at the border – a policy which, you may remember, Trump repeatedly insisted last week he had no power to change. His hands were tied. There was nothing he could do. Well, guess what? ... Yes, Trump claimed he couldn't do a thing and then he did it. Which is a little strange, because he usually claims he can do things and then doesn't do them, like draining the swamp or locking up Hillary or attending Tiffany's sweet sixteen."

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To:	"Jessica Martinez <jessica.martinez@iestex.org>"; "White, Jonathan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e9b5fe526f1d4ba0a6cc8dde8ec4d87-Jonathan Wh>"
CC:	"Brooks, Teresa (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0a2883a19e184fffb906bb06591b568a-Brooks, Ter>"; "Claudia Gonzalez-Rivera <crivera@iestex.org>"; "De LA Cruz, James (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2eba95d119ab4cd6a77b34616dc3366c-De LA Cruz,>"; "Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4caeb9900d27435daf018df146c4f075-Bowman, Mat>"
Subject:	RE: Inquiry Regarding Request for Heightened Medical Service FW: Report of Significant Incident Addendum Event#110705
Date:	2017/10/26 15:39:38
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Jessica,

Just a brief update regarding the email below.

Please approach UAC and ask for her consent to inform her parents of the pregnancy today, and give her the option to do so herself if she would like. Let her know that the program would like to inform them because minors often benefit from a consultation with their parents over the question of an unplanned pregnancy, and such discussions often leads to the realization that the parents have their best interests at heart.

If received, please tell them

From: Lloyd, Scott (ACF)

Sent: Monday, October 23, 2017 9:19 PM

To: Jessica Martinez; White, Jonathan (ACF)

Cc: Brooks, Teresa (ACF); Claudia Gonzalez-Rivera; De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC)

Subject: RE: Inquiry Regarding Request for Heightened Medical Service FW: Report of Significant Incident Addendum Event#110705

Dear Jessica,

Thank you for the message.

Please direct the program to take the following steps:

- 1) Confirm pregnancy with OB/GYN according to standard operating procedure.
- 2) If further tests confirm pregnancy, the parents must be notified of the pregnancy. Either UAC or the program should notify parents, according to the UAC's preference.
- 3) Please report back when the program has completed these steps.

Thank you,

Scott

From: Jessica Martinez [<mailto:jessica.martinez@iestex.org>]
Sent: Monday, October 23, 2017 7:59 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Cc: Brooks, Teresa (ACF); Lloyd, Scott (ACF); Claudia Gonzalez-Rivera; De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Subject: [WARNING : MESSAGE ENCRYPTED] Inquiry Regarding Request for Heightened Medical Service FW: Report of Significant Incident Addendum Event#110705
Importance: High

Good Afternoon,

Please be advised, IES LF Shelter has a new arrival 17-year-old female UAC (b)(6) from Guatemala in care (DOE 10/19/17) whom today (10/23/17) advised assigned Clinician that she wished "to take a pill to get rid of baby" directly implying to the Clinician that UAC does not wish to proceed with pregnancy. According to what UAC shared with assigned Clinician, the UAC explained her thoughts stating "she is too young, she does not have the resources to care for a child, she is afraid her family will be angry and that she and her family cannot deal with something like this at this time". Please note UAC's initial medical screening was completed on Friday, October 20th, 2017, an

HCG test indicated UAC is pregnant. The pregnancy has yet to be confirmed by obstetrician, initial OB/GYN appointment is scheduled for 10/27/17 at 2:30 p.m. Please note, the primary care physician is not aware of minor's thoughts on this matter and has issued a referral to OB/GYN for standard prenatal care. According to UAC, she was not aware she was pregnant when she departed from home country and she does not wish to disclose pregnancy with her family or sponsor. Minor reported she was raised by her mother in Guatemala and is not familiar with her biological father.

Based on limited available information, the minor is less than 4 weeks pregnant, she traveled from Guatemala with her adult sister and her sister's child. Upon apprehension, UAC was separated from her adult sister and her adult sister remains in DHS custody. The UAC's point of contact is her brother-in-law, (b)(6) (b)(6) whom currently resides in Idaho. The UACs plan was to travel to Idaho alongside her adult sister and to unite with her sister's husband, (b)(6) (b)(6) whom currently resides in Wendell, ID. At this time care provider has not received documentation from potential sponsor (brother-in-law) to formally prove relationship with UAC. However, assigned Case Manager has made contact with UAC's brother-in-law, the FRA has been forwarded and he has verbally agreed to the terms and conditions of sponsoring UAC. (b)(6) (b)(6) (minor's brother-in-law) has agreed to comply with all reunification requirements and provide all necessary documentation to move forward with reunification process. Care provider will ensure to provide sponsor with the support needed to facilitate the reunification process, at this time the UAC denies any history of abuse, neglect or mistreatment. There are no indicators or concerns of a history of trauma. At time, UAC has not attended Know Your Rights Presentation and is pending initial legal screening, these services are scheduled to take place tomorrow, October 24, 2017.

Care provider has not reached out to any community medical providers regarding minor's inquiry, no follow up appointments and/or information regarding the subject matter of minor's inquiry has been nor will be issued to UAC unless authorization is granted by ORR. This information will be elevated to designated ORR FFS and a Significant Incident Addendum (Event# 110705) has been submitted with regards to UAC's inquiry. Please advise on how to proceed should UAC continue to request information regarding this very specific heightened medical service, thank you, we will wait for further guidance.

Please note, due to the sensitive nature of this information, it is my intention to ensue ORR officials are made aware of this emerging matter promptly. Please let

me know if there are any questions or concerns regarding the information provided, I will gladly be of assistance.

*Password to follow, thank you.

Jessica Martinez, MA, LCCA

Program Director

IES Shelter Los Fresnos

International Educational Services, Inc.

P.O. Box 112

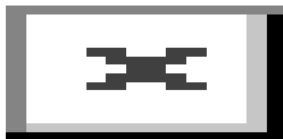
Los Fresnos, TX 78566

Phone: 956-233-5705 ext: 1410

Cell: (b)(6)

Fax: 956-233-3435

Jessica.martinez@iestex.org



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Sent Date:	2017/10/26 15:31:54
Delivered Date:	2017/10/26 15:39:38
Message Flags:	Unsent

To:	"Jessica Martinez <jessica.martinez@iestex.org>"; "White, Jonathan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e9b5fe526f1d4ba0a6cc8ddee8ec4d87-Jonathan Wh>"
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Subject:	RE: Inquiry Regarding Request for Heightened Medical Service FW: Report of Significant Incident Addendum Event#110705
Date:	2017/10/23 21:17:02
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Dear Jessica,

Thank you for the message.

Please direct the program to take the following steps:

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Sent: Monday, October 23, 2017 7:59 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Cc: Brooks, Teresa (ACF); Lloyd, Scott (ACF); Claudia Gonzalez-Rivera; De LA Cruz, James (ACF)

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*Password to follow, thank you.

Jessica Martinez, MA, LCCA

Program Director

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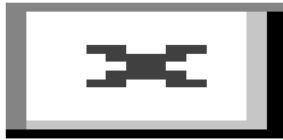
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Subject:	Informational document
Date:	2018/01/12 16:12:44
Priority:	Urgent
Type:	Note

Jonathan,

In addition to the information regarding the offer for adoption we received, please instruct the program to ask the UAC if she desires information about pregnancy. If so, please ask the program to share the attached materials with her. If she would like assistance going through them, the program should accommodate, and answer or submit to us any questions the UAC has. The program should not share if the UAC is not interested.

Thank you,
Scott

E. Scott Lloyd

Director

Office of Refugee Resettlement

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

(202) 401-7269

(202) (b)(6) (cell)

scott.lloyd@acf.hhs.gov

Recipient:	"White, Jonathan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
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EL DERECHO DE LA MUJER A ESTAR INFORMADA

Material informativo



TEXAS
Health and Human Services

Texas Health and Human
Services Commission

Texas Department of State
Health Services

**Todos los derechos reservados, 2016. Departamento Estatal de Servicios de Salud de Texas.
Revisado en diciembre de 2016.**

**Las fotografías a color representan el desarrollo del niño en incrementos gestacionales de dos semanas:
Peg Gerrity, www.peggerrity.com.**

Usted está embarazada y debe conocer todas las opciones a su disposición. Tiene derecho a conocer la verdad. Este folleto le ofrece información importante sobre el bebé que está creciendo en su vientre y los recursos a su disposición durante y después del embarazo. Necesita información de calidad para poder tomar decisiones importantes sobre su embarazo y su vida. Tiene derecho a tomar estas decisiones sin presiones. Nadie debe tomarlas por usted.

Nadie puede obligarla a tener un aborto, ni siquiera sus padres ni el padre del bebé. Si se siente presionada (o coaccionada) por alguien para hacerse un aborto, sepa que tiene opciones. Cuéntele a su doctor, consejero o asesor espiritual lo que siente y pida un teléfono para llamar al 9-1-1 si necesita ayuda de inmediato.

Si usted es víctima de la trata de personas (es decir, si alguien la está obligando a trabajar o mantener relaciones sexuales a cambio de dinero), llame a la **Línea nacional de recursos sobre la trata de personas al 1-888-373-7888**.

Si está leyendo este folleto porque está pensando en abortar, el doctor que vaya a practicar el aborto debe hacerle primero una ecografía, dejar que usted vea a su bebé, describir aquello que pueda verse en la ecografía y dejar que usted escuche el latido, si ya puede oírse. El doctor debe esperar al menos 24 horas antes de realizar el aborto para que usted pueda pensar bien las cosas y tomar esta decisión importante sin presiones. Solo usted tiene el derecho de decidir qué hacer.

Usted y su doctor deben hablar con franqueza y en privado. Usted tiene el derecho de hacer preguntas e informarse tanto como sea posible. Para comprender mejor los riesgos, comparta sus antecedentes médicos con su doctor y hable con él del riesgo que plantea cada opción en vista de su historial y necesidades de salud particulares. Entre las cosas que debe hablar con su doctor están:

- Sus antecedentes médicos.
- Cuánto tiempo lleva embarazada.
- Los riesgos médicos de hacerse un aborto.
- Las alternativas al aborto, incluida la adopción.

- Los riesgos médicos que supone llevar un embarazo a término.
- El gran número de instituciones públicas y privadas que ayudan a las madres primerizas con el embarazo, el parto y la maternidad, entre ellas agencias de adopción y servicios de ecografía gratuitos cerca de usted que pueden facilitarle imágenes del bebé en su vientre.
- El dinero y otro tipo de ayudas disponibles para las nuevas mamás.

Tómese el tiempo que necesite para leer este folleto y hablar con personas de confianza. Puede hablar con un familiar, un consejero espiritual o profesional, un amigo cercano, su esposo, su pareja o el padre del bebé. Usted merece recibir los consejos y el apoyo de las personas en quienes confía. Le recomendamos que les pida consejos y orientación antes de tomar cualquier decisión relacionada con su embarazo. Sea cual sea su decisión, necesitará contar con el apoyo de las personas más cercanas a usted. Las decisiones que tome sobre su embarazo son sumamente importantes. Tiene el derecho de tomarlas teniendo en cuenta sus valores, creencias y necesidades médicas.

Puede consultar otros materiales en línea visitando: www.dshs.texas.gov/wrtk. * Este es un sitio web seguro. El Departamento Estatal de Servicios de Salud (DSHS) de Texas no recopilará ni registrará ningún dato sobre usted.

Si tiene menos de 18 años, la ley de Texas exige que los doctores avisen a su padre o tutor antes de que usted pueda abortar. En la mayoría de los casos, el padre o tutor debe dar su consentimiento, a menos que se le exima de este requisito. Si usted es menor de edad, pídale al doctor o al centro el folleto "Ya estás embarazada, ¿y ahora qué?", que trata sobre este aspecto de la ley. Este folleto está disponible en: www.dshs.texas.gov/adolescent/resources.shtm.

Si no se están protegiendo los derechos descritos en este folleto, o si observa que el centro se encuentra en condiciones ilegales o insalubres, puede presentar una queja llamando a 1-888-973-0022 o enviando un correo electrónico a hfc.complaints@dshs.texas.gov.

**Nota: El derecho de la mujer a estar informada: Directorio de recursos (www.dshs.texas.gov/wrtk) incluye información sobre ciertos programas y servicios con los que pueden contar las mujeres durante el embarazo, el parto y el crecimiento de su hijo. Este folleto contiene los nombres, direcciones y números de teléfono de estos programas. El directorio de recursos también contiene información sobre las agencias de adopción públicas y privadas.*

El desarrollo de su bebé

El dolor del feto

Los bebés recién nacidos pueden sentir dolor. Sabemos que los bebés desarrollan el sentido del dolor cuando están en el útero. Dada la posibilidad de que el feto sienta dolor, actualmente la ley de Texas limita el aborto a las primeras 20 semanas de gestaciónⁱ.

El siguiente apartado describe los cambios que se observan a medida que el bebé se desarrolla dentro del cuerpo del madre durante el embarazoⁱⁱ. Este periodo se conoce como gestación y puede medirse de dos maneras, que se describen en las páginas siguientes:

- El número de semanas transcurridas desde el inicio del último ciclo menstrual normal (semanas de gestación).
- El número de semanas transcurridas desde la fecha estimada de concepción, alrededor de dos semanas después del inicio del último ciclo menstrual normal.

Normalmente, se estima que la fecha de nacimiento del bebé será aproximadamente 40 semanas después del inicio del último ciclo menstrual normal.

Concepción

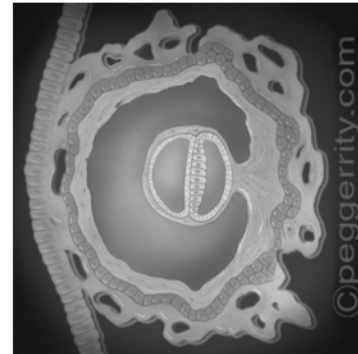
Su bebé empieza a desarrollarse en el momento de concepción, es decir, cuando un huevo sin fertilizar (óvulo) se une y se fusiona con el espermatozoide del padre. En ese momento, su óvulo proporciona al bebé la mitad de sus genes (el material genético heredado que se transmite a través del ADN) y el espermatozoide del padre proporciona la otra mitad. Una vez combinado, este material proporciona toda la información genética necesaria para que el bebé se desarrolle en su vientre. En un embarazo a término, el ciclo de desarrollo empieza con el óvulo fertilizado y acaba unas 38 semanas después, cuando el bebé está listo para nacer.

Las siguientes ilustraciones muestran los cambios que tienen lugar a medida que su bebé se desarrolla, desde el momento de la concepción en adelante.

4 semanas de gestación

(2 semanas después de la concepción)

- El término científico con el que se designa a su bebé en esta etapa es embrión.
- Las células que se convertirán en órganos vitales, como el corazón y el cerebro, empiezan a desarrollarse.
- Los vasos sanguíneos empiezan a formarse.
- Su bebé pesa menos de 1 onza y mide menos de 1/8 de pulgada.



6 semanas de gestación

(4 semanas después de la concepción)

- El corazón de su bebé empieza a formarse. El corazón comienza a latir.
- El cerebro y la médula espinal empiezan a formarse.
- Los pulmones, el hígado, el estómago y otros órganos principales empiezan a formarse.
- Se observan las yemas de brazos y piernas (las estructuras que se convertirán en las extremidades).
- Empiezan a formarse los ojos y las orejas.
- Su bebé mide menos de 1/4 de pulgada.



8 semanas de gestación

(6 semanas después de la concepción)

- El corazón en desarrollo de su bebé empieza a latir a un ritmo regular.
- Los rasgos faciales (ojos, nariz, labios y lengua) empiezan a formarse.
- Todos los órganos esenciales han empezado a desarrollarse.
- Los nervios espinales empiezan a desarrollarse.
- El cerebro sigue desarrollándose.
- Los brazos y las piernas se alargan.
- Los dedos de las manos y los pies se están desarrollando.
- Los órganos sexuales empiezan a formarse.
- Su bebé mide 1/2 pulgada.



10 semanas de gestación

(8 semanas después de la concepción)

- Se producen los primeros movimientos espontáneos de su bebé (movimientos que se producen solos).
- Se forman los codos y aparecen las uñas.
- Los párpados se desarrollan todavía más.
- La parte externa de las orejas empieza a tomar su forma definitiva.
- Los rasgos faciales siguen desarrollándose.
- Las células que detectan el tacto empiezan a formarse.
- Los nervios que controlarán los órganos del bebé se forman.
- La actividad del cerebro de su bebé ya puede registrarse.
- Al final de esta semana, al bebé se le conoce con el nombre científico de feto.
- Su bebé mide entre 1¼ y 1½ pulgadas de la cabeza a los glúteos.



12 semanas de gestación

(10 semanas después de la concepción)

- Su bebé se mueve, aunque usted no pueda sentir sus movimientos.
- Todos los órganos y las partes del cuerpo están presentes y creciendo.
- Puede escucharse el latido de su corazón con aparatos electrónicos.
- El cuerpo crece rápidamente.
- El cuerpo y el cuello se alargan.
- Los párpados se cierran y no volverán a abrirse hasta la semana 28.
- Aparecen las uñas.
- Empiezan a formarse las yemas de los dientes.
- Su bebé pesa cerca de media onza y mide alrededor de 2½ pulgadas de la cabeza a los glúteos.



El desarrollo de su bebé

14 semanas de gestación

(12 semanas después de la concepción)

- Las papilas gustativas están desarrollándose.
- Los brazos y las piernas empiezan a moverse.
- Aparecen los movimientos asociados al hipo.
- Los órganos sexuales externos se desarrollan y se diferencian (masculino o femenino).
- Su bebé puede responder al contacto con la piel.
- Su bebé mide cerca de 3½ pulgadas de la cabeza a los pies y pesa alrededor de 1½ onzas.



16 semanas de gestación

(14 semanas después de la concepción)

- Su bebé puede tragar y se observan claramente los movimientos del pecho.
- La boca hace movimientos de succión.
- El bebé se lleva con frecuencia las manos a la cara.
- Los ojos empiezan a moverse.
- Su bebé mide cerca de 4¾ pulgadas de la cabeza a los glúteos y pesa menos de 4 onzas.



18 semanas de gestación

(16 semanas después de la concepción)

- Puede que sienta los movimientos de brazos y piernas de su bebé.
- Los riñones funcionan y producen orina.
- Las papilas gustativas están presentes.
- La piel está arrugada.
- Se desarrollan todavía más algunos rasgos, como los párpados, las orejas y el labio superior.
- Su bebé mide cerca de 5½ pulgadas de la cabeza a los glúteos y pesa alrededor de 7 onzas.



20 semanas de gestación

(18 semanas después de la concepción)

- Su bebé es más activo, se mueve a cada minuto y usted puede sentir sus movimientos.
- Los movimientos parecidos a la respiración se normalizan y pueden apreciarse en una ecografía.
- La estructura de los oídos está bien desarrollada. Su bebé puede oír y responder a una gama de sonidos cada vez mayor.
- Empieza a crecerle el cabello.
- Todas las capas y estructuras de la piel están presentes, incluidos los folículos y las glándulas del vello.
- Al finalizar esta semana, su bebé puede tragar.
- Los ovarios que contienen los óvulos ya están presentes en las niñas, y en los niños empiezan a descender los testículos.
- El meconio (una sustancia de color verdoso compuesta de las células y secreciones ingeridas) empieza a formarse en el tracto intestinal. Esta sustancia será la primera evacuación de su bebé.
- Su bebé pesa cerca de 11 onzas y mide alrededor de 6 pulgadas de la cabeza a los glúteos.



22 semanas de gestación

(20 semanas después de la concepción)

- Su bebé duerme y se despierta con regularidad. Los ruidos y sus movimientos pueden despertarlo.
- Ya se han formado los párpados y las cejas.
- Las cuerdas vocales están desarrollándose.
- El sistema nervioso sigue desarrollándose.
- Los movimientos se vuelven más coordinados.
- Pueden escucharse los latidos de su corazón con un estetoscopio.
- Su cuerpo está cubierto por una capa de vello muy fino llamado lanugo.
- Su bebé pesa cerca de 1 libra y mide entre 7 y 7½ pulgadas de la cabeza a los glúteos.



24 semanas de gestación

(22 semanas después de la concepción)

- Si recibe un estímulo, su bebé parpadeará y se sobresaltará (contraerá los brazos y las piernas).
- Su piel está arrugada y enrojecida.
- Se han desarrollado los sentidos del olfato y el tacto.
- Si el bebé naciera en esta etapa intentaría respirar, aunque sus pulmones no están completamente desarrollados.
- Su bebé pesa cerca de 1.4 libras y mide alrededor de 8 pulgadas de la cabeza a los glúteos.



El desarrollo de su bebé

26 semanas de gestación

(24 semanas después de la concepción)

- Aunque los pulmones en desarrollo de su bebé están completamente formados, no están listos para funcionar fuera del útero.
- Las líneas de la piel de los dedos de las manos (sus futuras huellas dactilares), los dedos de los pies, la palma de las manos y la planta de los pies ya se han formado.
- Su bebé pesa cerca de 1.8 libras y mide alrededor de 9 pulgadas de la cabeza a los glúteos.



28 semanas de gestación

(26 semanas después de la concepción)

- El cerebro y el sistema nervioso de su bebé se han formado y siguen desarrollándose.
- Los pulmones y el sistema digestivo se han formado y siguen desarrollándose.
- Los ojos están parcialmente abiertos y las pestañas ya están presentes.
- Su bebé pesa cerca de 2.2 libras y mide casi 10 pulgadas de la cabeza a los glúteos.



30 semanas de gestación

(28 semanas después de la concepción)

- Su bebé da patadas y se estira.
- Su bebé tiene reflejos de agarre y responde al sonido.
- El sistema nervioso controla ciertas funciones corporales.
- Su bebé pesa cerca de 2.9 libras y mide casi 10½ pulgadas de la cabeza a los glúteos.



32 semanas de gestación

(30 semanas después de la concepción)

- Su bebé aumenta de peso y el cuerpo engorda.
- Las uñas de las manos y los pies crecen.
- Las pupilas reaccionan a la luz.
- Su bebé pesa cerca de 4 libras y mide casi 11 pulgadas de la cabeza a los glúteos.



34 semanas de gestación

(32 semanas después de la concepción)

- Su bebé se muestra activo (se mueve) el 60% o más del tiempo.
- Los huesos se endurecen, pero el cráneo sigue siendo suave y flexible, para facilitar el parto.
- Su respiración es rítmica y los pulmones siguen desarrollándose.
- Su bebé pesa cerca de 4.6 libras y mide alrededor de 12 pulgadas de la cabeza a los glúteos.



36 semanas de gestación

(34 semanas después de la concepción)

- Su bebé aumenta de peso rápidamente, preparándose para el nacimiento.
- Su cuerpo y su cara se rellenan; la piel ya no está arrugada.
- Las uñas llegan hasta la punta de los dedos.
- En las últimas cuatro semanas de gestación, usted le pasa a su bebé una gran cantidad de factores de inmunidad (sustancias en la sangre que lo protegen de enfermedades e infecciones).
- Su bebé pesa cerca de 5.5 libras y mide alrededor de 12½ pulgadas de la cabeza a los glúteos.



38 semanas de gestación

(36 semanas después de la concepción)

- Los pulmones y el cerebro de su bebé se desarrollan rápidamente.
- Su bebé puede agarrar objetos con firmeza.
- Su bebé pesa cerca de 6.4 libras y mide alrededor de 13½ pulgadas de la cabeza a los glúteos.



40 semanas de gestación

(38 semanas después de la concepción)

- Su bebé está completamente desarrollado y se considera que está a término.
- El cerebro y el sistema nervioso seguirán desarrollándose después de nacer.
- Las uñas de los pies llegan hasta la punta de los dedos.
- Ya han aparecido los brotes mamarios.
- Las uñas de las manos crecen más allá de las puntas de los dedos.
- Su bebé pesa cerca de 7.5 libras y mide alrededor de 14 pulgadas de la cabeza a los glúteos.



Riesgos relacionados con el aborto

En este apartado se describen los riesgos asociados al aborto. Estos riesgos varían dependiendo de distintos factores.

Muerte

El riesgo de morir y de sufrir complicaciones graves a causa de un aborto es mayor cuanto más avanzado esté el embarazo. Según datos recientes de los Centros para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades (CDC), entre 2008 y 2011 se registraron en Estados Unidos 0.73 muertes relacionadas con abortos legales por cada 100,000 abortos reportadosⁱⁱⁱ. Estudios realizados en otros países altamente desarrollados han mostrado una tasa mayor de mortalidad asociada a los abortos legales^{iv}.

Riesgos para la salud física

Además, un aborto puede provocar efectos secundarios físicos de distintos niveles de gravedad. Normalmente la mujer tiene cólicos y sangrado vaginal después de someterse a cualquier tipo de aborto. Otros síntomas o efectos secundarios son náuseas (malestar

estomacal) o vómitos, diarrea, sensación de calor o escalofríos, dolor de cabeza, mareo y fatiga (cansancio excesivo).

Los abortos, espontáneos o no, pueden resultar en complicaciones tales como lesiones en los órganos internos, coágulos de sangre o infecciones graves. Estas complicaciones se describirán en detalle más adelante en este folleto, según los distintos tipos de aborto.

Riesgos para la salud mental

Las mujeres afirman sentir distintas emociones después de tener un aborto. Entre ellas están la depresión o los pensamientos suicidas. Después de un aborto, algunas mujeres también sienten tristeza, ansiedad, autoestima baja, arrepentimiento y desapego emocional. Además pueden experimentar disfunción sexual, tener recuerdos recurrentes y abusar de sustancias. En algunas mujeres, estas emociones pueden





aparecer inmediatamente después de un aborto; en otras, de forma gradual. Estos sentimientos pueden reaparecer o intensificarse con un nuevo aborto, al dar a luz o en los aniversarios del aborto. Es importante que hable con su médico si se siente así.

Es más probable que las mujeres que han tenido problemas de salud mental los vuelvan a sufrir después de tener un aborto. Estas mujeres podrían necesitar ayuda adicional.

Es muy importante participar en terapia o recibir ayuda antes de tomar la decisión de abortar. Si no puede contar con el apoyo y la ayuda de su familia, hablar con un consejero espiritual o profesional antes de abortar puede ayudarle a entender mejor la decisión que está tomando. Muchos centros de recursos para el embarazo pueden asesorarla. Estos centros aparecen en el directorio de recursos.

Infertilidad en el futuro

Cuanto más avanzado esté su embarazo, mayor será la posibilidad de sufrir complicaciones graves que pueden provocar infertilidad y aumentar el riesgo de morir a causa de un aborto. Algunas complicaciones asociadas al aborto, como por ejemplo una infección, un corte o un desgarró del cuello uterino, pueden dificultar o impedir que quede embarazada o que lleve un embarazo a término.

Riesgo de cáncer de seno^v

Su historial de embarazo afecta a sus posibilidades de contraer cáncer de seno. Si tiene a su bebé, es menos probable que desarrolle cáncer de seno en el futuro. Los estudios indican que, si tiene un aborto, usted no cuenta con esta mayor protección frente al cáncer de seno. Además, doctores y científicos están estudiando la compleja biología del cáncer de seno para determinar si un aborto puede repercutir en el riesgo de cáncer de seno. Si alguien en su familia ha padecido cáncer de seno o una enfermedad del seno, pregunte a su doctor qué efectos tiene un embarazo en el riesgo de padecer cáncer de seno.

Tomar una decisión informada

Para tomar una decisión informada, es necesario que conozca todas sus opciones. Cada opción tiene posibles riesgos y beneficios. Hay servicios de asesoramiento disponibles para ayudarle a entender bien cuáles son sus opciones y a tomar una decisión.

Antes de tener un aborto

Debe preguntarle a su doctor acerca de cualquier posible riesgo. Usted tiene derecho a estar informada, y es obligación del doctor asegurarse de que usted reciba información antes de tomar la decisión de tener un aborto. Estas son algunas cuestiones que el doctor debe hablar con usted:

- Usted debe estar segura de que está embarazada y de cuánto tiempo lleva embarazada. Su doctor le hará además un examen pélvico.
- Su doctor evaluará su estado de salud y le hablará de los riesgos médicos asociados al aborto. Usted se someterá a un examen físico y pruebas de laboratorio, y contestará una serie de preguntas sobre sus antecedentes médicos. El doctor responderá a cualquier pregunta que usted tenga.
- El doctor le explicará cómo crece el bebé en su vientre y le dará una lista de las agencias que ofrecen alternativas al aborto, incluida la adopción, y los nombres de agencias y organizaciones privadas que ofrecen servicios de ecografía (imágenes del bebé en el útero o ultrasonidos). Algunas organizaciones ofrecen ecografías gratuitas.

Si usted decide tener un aborto:

- Al menos 24 horas antes del aborto, el doctor le hará una ecografía y le explicará lo que usted está viendo, incluidos el tamaño del bebé y si hay un latido, extremidades u órganos internos. El doctor está obligado a mostrarle la imagen de la ecografía mientras se esté realizando. Usted puede optar por no mirar las imágenes de su bebé. Usted tiene derecho de ver su ecografía en cualquier momento.
- Si tiene menos de 18 años, es obligatorio notificar a uno de sus padres o a su tutor y obtener su autorización, o bien tendrá que

pedirle a un juez que le exima del requisito de notificación y consentimiento.

- El doctor que practique el aborto debe proporcionarle el material impreso que publica el Departamento Estatal de Servicios de Salud de Texas (DSHS), titulado *El derecho de la mujer a estar informada*, y decirle que puede encontrar estos materiales en el sitio web del DSHS. Tendrá al menos un día para leer la información que le dé su doctor antes de la cita para el aborto. Deberá firmar un consentimiento por escrito para abortar.
- Su doctor debe darle un número de teléfono al que puede llamar las 24 horas del día para hablar con un médico u otro profesional de la salud sobre cualquier complicación o pregunta relacionada con el aborto, así como el nombre y teléfono del hospital más cercano a su domicilio donde pueden tratarla en caso de producirse una emergencia a consecuencia del aborto.
- Su doctor puede ofrecerle la posibilidad de someterse a un aborto farmacológico, que consiste en tomar un medicamento para provocar un aborto. En caso de realizar un aborto farmacológico, su doctor deberá entregarle una copia de la etiqueta impresa del medicamento empleado para inducir el aborto.





Asistencia médica y social

Antes de que pueda practicarse un aborto, su doctor debe darle cierta información importante, entre ella:

- Los beneficios de asistencia médica que pueden ayudarle con la atención prenatal, el parto y los cuidados del recién nacido.
- Las obligaciones legales del padre del bebé para ayudar a mantener a su hijo si usted decide continuar con el embarazo y quedarse con el bebé. Por ley, el padre debe ayudar aun cuando se haya ofrecido a pagar por el aborto.
- Instituciones públicas y privadas que pueden ayudarle si usted ha sido víctima de una violación o de incesto.
- Instituciones públicas y privadas que pueden proporcionarle información sobre cómo evitar el embarazo y recomendarle servicios de planificación familiar.

Debe saber que, si decide tener al bebé y se ve abrumada por sus obligaciones como madre, Texas tiene una ley llamada "Bebé Moisés/Refugio Seguro". Esta ley permite que usted o el padre del niño dejen a un bebé que aparente tener menos de 60 días de vida bajo el cuidado de un proveedor de atención de emergencia, como una estación de servicios médicos de emergencia, una estación de bomberos, una agencia de colocación de menores con licencia o cualquier hospital. Usted no tendrá que

regresar por el bebé ni se le acusará de ningún delito, siempre y cuando el niño no haya sufrido daños.

Servicios de manutención de niños

Ayuda para obtener la manutención de niños

El padre de su hijo está obligado por ley a pagar la manutención del niño, y la Procuraduría General de Texas puede ayudarle a cobrar esta manutención. La División de Manutención de Niños de la Procuraduría General puede ayudarle a encontrar a los padres cuyo paradero se desconoce, a demostrar legalmente quién es el padre, a dictar órdenes de manutención de niños o a cobrar pagos de manutención de niños. Texas es el estado más eficaz a la hora de asegurar que los padres paguen lo que deben, habiendo cobrado solo en 2015 más de 3,900 millones de dólares. Texas tiene un alto índice de cobro: el estado logra recolectar el 65.2 por ciento de todos los montos por concepto de manutención. Si necesita estos servicios, llame al 1-800-252-8014 o visite www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/cs/bienvenidos-a-la-division-de-manutencion-de-ninos/.

Si usted es víctima de violencia familiar, estas son las medidas que puede tomar para cobrar la manutención de niños sin correr peligro.

Para más información, visite www.getchilddisputessafely.org/en-espanol/.





***Pídale a su doctor una copia de
"El derecho de la mujer a estar informada:
Directorio de recursos".***

Servicios de adopción

Otra opción que puede considerar es la adopción. La adopción significa que usted, como madre biológica, transfiere voluntariamente sus derechos como madre de su bebé a otra familia. Escoger la adopción significa que usted quiere que su hijo tenga una buena vida, pero quizás en este momento usted no pueda ser la mejor madre.

Dar a su hijo en adopción es una decisión valiente y motivada por el amor que siente por su bebé. Cuando entrega a su bebé en adopción, lo está colocando con unos padres cariñosos que pueden darle la buena vida que usted quiere para él.

Hay muchos recursos disponibles para ayudarle a decidir si la adopción es la opción más adecuada para usted y su bebé. Cada adopción es diferente y usted recibirá ayuda para asegurar que el proceso de adopción se ajuste a sus necesidades y a las de su bebé.

Si escoge dar a su bebé en adopción, podría tener la opción de elegir y conocer a la familia

que lo adoptará. Puede escoger entre dos tipos de adopción para su bebé. En una adopción abierta, usted puede permanecer en contacto con su bebé mientras crece, tal vez mediante fotografías, llamadas telefónicas o visitas. En una adopción cerrada, no habrá contacto entre usted y la familia que adopte a su bebé una vez concluida la adopción. Usted tiene la opción de escoger el tipo de adopción que prefiera.

Hable con un pariente, consejero espiritual o profesional o amigo cercano sobre la adopción. Dado que la adopción es una decisión muy importante, puede que quiera contar con el apoyo de personas de confianza antes de tomar esta decisión.

Nunca es demasiado tarde para decidir dar a su hijo en adopción. Puede tomar esta decisión en cualquier momento durante su embarazo o incluso una vez que haya nacido el bebé.

Puede encontrar más información sobre la adopción y las organizaciones que ofrecen servicios de adopción en: https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Espanol/Servicios_de_Proteccion_al_Menor/Adoption.asp/.



Procedimientos y efectos secundarios

Los dos tipos principales de aborto son el aborto farmacológico y el aborto quirúrgico. Es normal que la mujer presente dolores y sangrado vaginal después de someterse a cualquier tipo de aborto. Podrían presentarse otros síntomas o efectos secundarios, entre ellos, náuseas (malestar estomacal) o vómitos, diarrea, sensación de calor o escalofríos, dolor de cabeza, mareo y fatiga (cansancio excesivo). Además, en ocasiones pueden presentarse otras complicaciones graves. En este apartado se describirá también el riesgo de complicaciones relacionado con cada uno de estos métodos.

Abortos durante el primer trimestre

Durante el primer trimestre (hasta las 13 semanas de gestación), se puede realizar un aborto con medicamentos o con cirugía.

Aborto farmacológico (sin cirugía)

En un aborto farmacológico se usan medicamentos en vez de cirugía para interrumpir el embarazo en su etapa inicial, es decir, en los 70 días (10 semanas) o menos, siguientes al primer día de su último ciclo menstrual. Este método requiere que vaya varias veces al doctor. Los medicamentos que se usan en un aborto farmacológico pueden causar sangrado, cólicos y la expulsión del feto y otros tejidos. En algunos casos, si hay sangrado excesivo puede ser necesario realizar una transfusión de sangre, un tratamiento con medicamentos, una cirugía o transfusiones de solución salina. Uno de los riesgos del aborto farmacológico son las infecciones graves.

Estos son algunos de los posibles riesgos o complicaciones de los abortos farmacológicos con mifepristona y misoprostol^{vi}:

- Menos del 3% de los procedimientos no funcionarán y darán lugar a un procedimiento quirúrgico para interrumpir el embarazo o completar el aborto.
- Más de 15 de cada 100 mujeres que se someten a un aborto farmacológico experimentarán náuseas, debilidad, fiebre o escalofríos, vómitos, dolor de cabeza, diarrea o mareo.
- Entre 3 y 5 de cada 100 procedimientos acabarán en una visita a la sala de emergencias.
- Hasta 6 de cada 1,000 abortos farmacológicos requerirán hospitalización.

- Pueden producirse hemorragias (sangrado excesivo).
- Aproximadamente 4 de cada 100 procedimientos requieren medicamentos para controlar el sangrado.
- Alrededor de 1 de cada 100 procedimientos requiere una intervención quirúrgica para detener el sangrado y extraer partes del bebé y de la placenta.
- En hasta 5 de cada 1,000 procedimientos se administran transfusiones de sangre.
- Si no se extraen todas las partes del bebé y otros tejidos, incluida la placenta, podría ser necesario realizar un procedimiento quirúrgico de seguimiento.
- Las complicaciones durante el procedimiento



podrían aumentar el riesgo de infertilidad (la incapacidad de tener un bebé).

Se han reportado infecciones bacterianas graves en 2 de cada 1,000 procedimientos. En escasas ocasiones, una infección grave después del aborto farmacológico ha provocado la muerte de la paciente.

¿Quién no debería someterse a un aborto farmacológico?

Algunas mujeres no deberían someterse a un aborto farmacológico. Estas son algunas razones por las que no debería realizarse un aborto farmacológico:

- Han pasado más de 70 días (10 semanas) desde el primer día de su última menstruación.
- Es alérgica a alguno de los medicamentos que se usarán.
- Tiene o podría tener un embarazo extrauterino o ectópico (cuando el bebé se desarrolla fuera del útero).
- Tiene un dispositivo intrauterino (DIU). El DIU debe extraerse antes de que el doctor pueda darle el medicamento.
- Ha estado tomando cierto tipo de medicamentos, como anticoagulantes o ciertos esteroides.
- Tiene una afección médica especial, como convulsiones descontroladas o un trastorno hemorrágico.
- Tiene algún problema de las glándulas adrenales (insuficiencia adrenal crónica).
- No puede acudir a todas las consultas para obtener los medicamentos necesarios para

realizar el aborto, o no puede someterse a los chequeos necesarios después del aborto.

- No tiene acceso a servicios de emergencia, si llegaran a necesitarse, en las dos semanas después de tomar los medicamentos.

Le recomendamos que hable con su doctor para descartar cualquier afección médica u otro problema de salud que podría ponerla en riesgo al hacerse un aborto farmacológico.

Cuando se someta a un aborto farmacológico durante la consulta, su doctor le dará mifepristona (anteriormente llamada RU 486 y actualmente conocida por su nombre comercial, Mifeprex®). Se toma por vía oral. Después de tomar la mifepristona, experimentará un sangrado vaginal y expulsará coágulos y tejido fetal. El sangrado suele durar entre 9 y 16 días, pero en ocasiones dura hasta 30 días. Su doctor programará una cita dos días después de que usted haya tomado la mifepristona. Si el aborto farmacológico ha quedado incompleto, se le dará un segundo medicamento, misoprostol. El misoprostol puede causar cólicos, náuseas, diarrea y otros síntomas. Es posible que su doctor la envíe a casa con un medicamento para aliviar estos síntomas.

El doctor programará una cita de seguimiento en los 14 días siguientes de administrarle el medicamento. Le hará un chequeo para ver si tiene algún síntoma y si el embarazo se ha interrumpido por completo. Asegúrese de comentarle a su doctor cualquier síntoma físico o emocional que esté experimentando. Antes de su cita de seguimiento, podría necesitar atención médica inmediata si presenta síntomas graves.



Procedimientos y efectos secundarios

Abortos durante el primer trimestre (continuación)

Legrado por succión (aborto quirúrgico)

El tipo de aborto más habitual es el legrado por succión, a veces llamado dilatación y legrado o legrado por aspiración.

La mayoría de las mujeres experimentan algo de dolor con este procedimiento. Puede que usted reciba medicamentos para el dolor, un sedante o ambos antes del procedimiento. Para realizar el procedimiento, podrían inyectarla o aplicar anestesia local en la zona del cuello uterino. También podrían administrarle anestesia general para dormirla y que no sienta dolor durante el procedimiento.

El doctor inserta un espéculo para mantener la vagina abierta, como en un examen pélvico, y le inyecta o aplica anestesia local. El cuello uterino se abre. A continuación, el contenido del útero, incluidos el bebé y la placenta, se extraen usando un aparato de succión que se inserta en el útero.

El procedimiento suele durar de 10 a 15 minutos, pero puede llevar más tiempo dependiendo de la etapa de desarrollo del bebé.

Entre las posibles complicaciones o riesgos del legrado por succión figuran^{vii}:

- Hemorragias (sangrado excesivo) con la posibilidad de histerectomía (extracción del útero) de emergencia para detener el sangrado.
- Perforación uterina (un agujero en el útero).
- Lesión al intestino o la vejiga, si se produce una perforación del útero.
- Incisión abdominal y operación para corregir la lesión.
- Si no se logran extraer todas las partes del bebé y otros tejidos, incluida la placenta, podría

ser necesario realizar otro procedimiento (esto sucede en menos de 5 de cada 100 procedimientos, es decir, en menos del 5% de los casos)^{viii}.

- Las complicaciones durante el procedimiento podrían aumentar el riesgo de infertilidad (la incapacidad de tener un bebé).
- Infección, normalmente debido a una infección que ya tenía la paciente antes del aborto.



Abortos durante el segundo trimestre

Durante el segundo trimestre (entre las 13 y 22 semanas de gestación), el aborto puede realizarse con un método quirúrgico conocido como dilatación y extracción*.

Dilatación y extracción

La mayoría de los abortos en el segundo trimestre se realizan mediante dilatación y extracción (DyE). Este procedimiento quirúrgico suele realizarse en un hospital o centro quirúrgico.

Antes de realizar este procedimiento, el doctor debe preparar el cuello uterino. Este proceso reblandece y abre el cuello uterino, y puede requerir varias consultas.

El reblandecimiento y la apertura del cuello uterino previos a la DyE ayudan a reducir el riesgo de desgarros o laceraciones.

La mayoría de las mujeres experimentan algo de dolor a consecuencia de este procedimiento. Antes del procedimiento, le pueden dar medicamentos para el dolor, un sedante o ambos. Para realizar el procedimiento, pueden inyectarle o aplicar anestesia local o regional en la zona del cuello uterino. También pueden administrarle anestesia general para dormirla durante el procedimiento. Su doctor le hablará acerca de sus opciones y de cualquier riesgo asociado a la anestesia.

Al comienzo del procedimiento, el doctor se asegurará de que el cuello uterino esté abierto. El líquido que envuelve al bebé (líquido amniótico) se extraerá con un aparato de succión que se coloca dentro del útero. El bebé y la placenta se extraen del útero usando instrumentos quirúrgicos. Por último, se insertará un aparato de succión en el

útero al final del procedimiento para extraer cualquier resto de tejido fetal. Después de las 14 semanas de embarazo, podrán extraerse el bebé, la placenta y otros contenidos del útero en pedazos usando instrumentos quirúrgicos. Este procedimiento suele durar menos de una hora.

Entre los posibles riesgos o complicaciones de una DyE figuran*:

- En casos excepcionales, la muerte.
- Laceración cervical (desgarros o lesiones al cuello uterino).
- Hemorragias (sangrado excesivo) con la posibilidad de una histerectomía (extracción del útero) de emergencia para detener el sangrado.
- Perforación uterina (un agujero en el útero).
- Lesión al intestino o la vejiga, en caso de perforación del útero.
- Incisión abdominal y operación para corregir la lesión.
- Si no se logran extraer todas las partes del bebé y otros tejidos, incluida la placenta, podría ser necesario otro procedimiento.
- De haber complicaciones durante el procedimiento, podría aumentar el riesgo de infertilidad (la incapacidad de tener un bebé).
- Embolia (el desprendimiento de un coágulo de sangre o líquido amniótico, células fetales, vello fetal u otro tipo de materia en el torrente sanguíneo que provoca un bloqueo repentino del flujo de la sangre a los pulmones u otros órganos).

* Nota: La ley de Texas establece que no pueden realizarse abortos una vez que se han cumplido 20 semanas después de la fertilización, lo que equivale aproximadamente a 22 semanas o más de gestación, tal como se define la gestación en este folleto. La ley de Texas prevé algunas excepciones, como los casos en que la vida de la madre corre peligro, existe un riesgo considerable de daños irreversibles en una función corporal esencial (excluyendo los padecimientos psicológicos) o el feto presenta una anomalía grave.

El embarazo y el parto

Dar a luz es una experiencia transformadora, y cada parto conlleva experiencias y sentimientos diferentes. Aunque el embarazo y el parto suelen ser procesos seguros y naturales, puede haber complicaciones.

El embarazo y el parto están asociados a una serie de complicaciones. Las complicaciones más habituales del embarazo incluyen:

- Embarazo extrauterino o ectópico (cuando el bebé se desarrolla fuera del útero).
- Presión arterial alta.
- Complicaciones durante el parto.
- Parto prematuro.
- Depresión.
- Infecciones.
- Diabetes.
- Hemorragias (sangrado excesivo).

Usted puede reducir el riesgo de problemas o complicaciones en el embarazo si:

- Recibe atención prenatal en una etapa temprana y con regularidad.
- Lleva una dieta equilibrada y hacer ejercicio con regularidad.
- Evita consumir tabaco, alcohol, drogas o cualquier medicamento que no le haya sido recetado.

Durante el parto, el útero se contrae y empuja al bebé para que nazca. El bebé puede nacer a través de la vagina de la mujer o mediante un procedimiento quirúrgico llamado cesárea.

Parto vaginal

Posibles riesgos y efectos secundarios:

- Lesiones a la vejiga o al recto.
- Una agujero (fístula) entre la vejiga y la vagina o el recto y la vagina.
- Hemorragias (sangrado excesivo).
- Infertilidad (la incapacidad de tener un bebé) debido a infecciones o complicaciones.

- El tratamiento de emergencia para cualquiera de los problemas anteriores, incluida la posibilidad de tratamiento con cirugía, con medicamentos o con transfusiones de sangre.
- La muerte (en raros casos: entre 2000 y 2006 se registraron 1.7 muertes hospitalarias por cada 100,000 partos vaginales)^{xi}.

Parto por cesárea

Posibles riesgos y efectos secundarios:

- Lesión a los intestinos o la vejiga.
- Infertilidad (la incapacidad de tener un bebé) debido a infecciones o complicaciones.
- Hemorragias (sangrado excesivo).
- Lesión al tubo (uréter) que conecta los riñones con la vejiga.
- La posibilidad de una histerectomía (la extracción del útero) debido a complicaciones o lesiones.
- Complicaciones derivadas de la anestesia, como problemas respiratorios, dolores de cabeza o reacciones a medicamentos.
- El tratamiento de emergencia para cualquiera de los problemas anteriores, incluidas la cirugía, la administración de medicamentos o las transfusiones de sangre.
- La muerte (en raros casos: entre 2000 y 2006, se registraron 12.7 muertes hospitalarias de la madre por cada 100,000 partos por cesárea^{xi}).



Síntomas después del parto

Sus sentimientos después del parto pueden ser los más intensos que haya experimentado en su vida: alegría y felicidad intensas y repentinas, sentimientos de satisfacción y plenitud. No es raro que las mujeres también sientan miedo, preocupación o tristeza. Puede que después del nacimiento del bebé la mujer experimente depresión, y muchas madres la sufren en distintos grados. Aunque la depresión puede aparecer días después del parto, también lo hace de forma gradual, y a veces no comienza hasta un año después del nacimiento de su hijo.

En la mayoría de los casos, las madres experimentan síntomas leves que duran tan solo unos días. Sin embargo, en algunas madres los síntomas pueden ser graves, como sentimientos de inutilidad y desesperanza y la pérdida de memoria.

En ciertas circunstancias, a usted le podrían diagnosticar depresión posparto. La depresión

posparto puede manifestarse hasta 1 año después del parto, aunque suele aparecer durante el embarazo (el 50 por ciento de las veces) y entre 1 y 3 semanas después del nacimiento del niño. La depresión posparto se caracteriza por intensos sentimientos de tristeza, ansiedad o desesperación que impiden a la nueva madre funcionar con normalidad a diario.

En raros casos, usted quizás tema lastimarse o lastimar a su bebé. Si es así, llame a su doctor inmediatamente y hable con él sobre estos síntomas. Si su doctor no está disponible, llame al 9-1-1. Los doctores pueden brindarle ayuda y apoyo profesional para superar estos momentos.

Es más probable que las mujeres que han tenido problemas de salud mental en el pasado vuelvan a tenerlos después de dar a luz. Estas mujeres pueden necesitar más ayuda de lo normal.

Si tiene alguna duda o pregunta, hable con su doctor u otro proveedor de atención médica.



Después del aborto

Llame al centro o al doctor que realizó el aborto o vaya a la sala de emergencias si:

- Sangra excesivamente (usa dos o más toallas higiénicas gruesas por hora durante dos horas consecutivas) o le preocupa cuánto está sangrando.
- Siente dolor o malestar estomacal o se siente enferma (por ejemplo, se siente débil o tiene dolor de estómago, náuseas, vómitos o diarrea), con o sin fiebre, durante más de 24 horas después de tomar misoprostol para tener un aborto farmacológico.
- Tiene fiebre (más de 100.4 grados Fahrenheit o 38 grados centígrados).
- Tiene dificultades para respirar o le falta el aliento.
- Siente dolor en el pecho.

- El dolor es intenso o no se puede controlar con medicamentos para el dolor.
- Está desorientada.

Su doctor programará una o más citas de seguimiento, la primera de ellas normalmente dos o tres semanas después del procedimiento. Su doctor debe programar una cita de seguimiento en los 14 días siguientes a un aborto farmacológico. Es importante que acuda a todas sus citas.

También debería pensar en buscar terapia si está deprimida, tiene pensamientos suicidas o siente algún otro tipo de angustia psicológica después de haber tenido un aborto.

ⁱ Bellieni, C. V. (2012). Evaluación del dolor en los fetos humanos y los bebés. *The AAPS Journal*, 14(3), 456–461. <http://doi.org/10.1208/s12248-012-9354-5>. Última consulta: 6/JUN/2016.

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ⁱⁱⁱ Pazol K, Creanga AA, Jamieson DJ; Centros de Control y Prevención de Enfermedades (CDC). (2015). Abortion Surveillance - United States, 2012. *Maternal Mortality Weekly Review Surveillance Summaries*. 64(10):1-40. Disponible en: http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/ss6410a1.htm?s_cid=ss6410a_e. Última consulta: 10/SEP/2016.

^{iv} Estudios a gran escala de registros de salud pública en Dinamarca y Finlandia donde se ofrecen abortos financiados por el gobierno, han demostrado un mayor riesgo de muerte.

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TEXAS
Health and Human Services

Texas Health and Human
Services Commission

Texas Department of State
Health Services

www.dshs.texas.gov/wrtk

Departamento Estatal de Servicios de Salud de Texas

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A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO KNOW

Informational material



TEXAS
Health and Human Services

Texas Health and Human
Services Commission

Texas Department of State
Health Services

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Color pictures representing the development of the child at two-week gestational increments:
Peg Gerrity, www.peggerrity.com.

Introduction

You are pregnant and want to know everything you can about the options you have. You have a right to know the truth. This booklet provides important information about the baby that is growing in your womb and the resources available to you during and after your pregnancy. You need good information in order to make important decisions about your pregnancy and your life. You have the right to make these decisions freely. No one else should make them for you.

No one can force you to have an abortion, not even your parents or the father of your baby. If you are feeling pressure (also called coercion) from someone to have an abortion, you have options. Talk to your doctor, counselor or spiritual adviser about your feelings, and ask for a phone to call 9-1-1 for immediate help.

If you are a victim of human trafficking (that is, if you are forced to provide labor or have sex for money), call the **National Human Trafficking Resource Hotline at 888-373-7888**.

If you are reading this because you are already considering an abortion, the doctor who agrees to perform the abortion must first perform a sonogram, allow you to see your baby, describe the features that can be seen and have you listen to the heartbeat if it can be heard. The doctor must wait at least 24 hours before performing the abortion so that you can consider all the facts and make this important decision freely. Only you have the right to decide what to do.

You and your doctor should talk openly and privately. You have the right to ask questions and know as much as you can. The best way for you to understand these risks is to share your health history with your doctor and discuss the risk of each option in light of your personal health history and needs. Some things you should discuss with your doctor include:

- Your personal health history.
- How long you have been pregnant.
- The medical risks of having an abortion.

- The alternatives to abortion, including adoption.
- The medical risks of carrying a pregnancy to term.
- The many public and private agencies that will help new mothers through pregnancy, childbirth and motherhood, including nearby adoption agencies and free sonogram services, which provide pictures of the baby in your womb.
- Money and other types of support available to new mothers.

Take whatever time you need to read this booklet and talk to other people you trust. You might speak with a family member, a spiritual or professional counselor, a close friend, your spouse, your partner or the father of the baby. You deserve the advice and support of those you trust, and you are strongly urged to ask for their advice and guidance before you make decisions that affect your pregnancy. You will need the support of those closest to you, whatever you decide. The decisions you make about your pregnancy are very important — you have the right to make them based upon your values, your beliefs and your health care needs.

You can view additional materials online at www.dshs.texas.gov/wrtk.^{*} This website is secure. No one from the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) will collect or record any information about you.

If you are under 18 years old, Texas law requires a doctor to notify your parent or guardian before you can have an abortion. In most cases, the parent or guardian must give consent unless a waiver is given. If you are a minor, ask the doctor or facility for the booklet, *So You're Pregnant, Now What?*, which discusses this part of the law. This booklet is available at www.dshs.texas.gov/adolescent/resources.shtm.

If your rights as explained in this booklet are not being protected or you notice illegal or unsanitary facility conditions, you may call or email your complaint here:
888-973-0022 or hfc.complaints@dshs.texas.gov.

^{*}Note: A Woman's Right to Know: Resource Directory (www.dshs.texas.gov/wrtk) lists information on certain programs and services that can be provided to women during pregnancy, childbirth and as the child is growing up. The booklet contains names, addresses and telephone numbers of these programs. The Resource Directory also has information about public and private adoption agencies.

Your baby's development

Fetal Pain

Newborn babies are able to feel pain. We know that babies develop the ability to feel pain while in the womb. In consideration of the potential for fetal pain, Texas law currently limits abortion to under 20 weeks.ⁱ

The next section shows the changes seen as a baby develops inside the mother's body during pregnancy.ⁱⁱ This period is called gestation and can be measured in two ways, both of which are noted in the following pages:

- The number of weeks since the start of the last normal menstrual cycle (weeks of gestation).
- The number of weeks since the estimated date of conception, around two weeks after the start of the last normal menstrual cycle.

Usually, your baby's due date is estimated to be 40 weeks after the start of your last normal menstrual cycle.

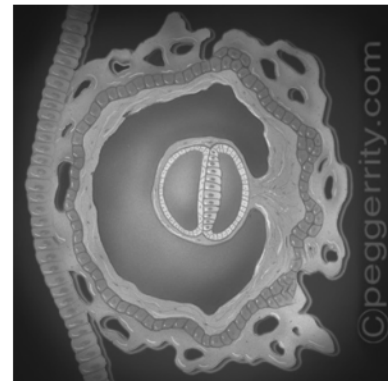
Conception

Your baby began developing at the moment of conception — when your unfertilized egg cell (ovum) met and fused with the sperm cell of the baby's father. At that moment, your ovum provided half of the baby's genes (the inherited genetic material passed through DNA) and the father's sperm cell provided the other half. Once combined together, this material provided all of the genetic information needed to complete your baby's development in your womb. In a full-term pregnancy, the cycle of development begins with the fertilized egg and is complete about 38 weeks later when the baby is ready to be born.

These illustrations show the changes taking place as the baby develops from the moment of conception onward.

4 Weeks of Gestation (2 weeks after conception)

- Your baby is scientifically referred to as an embryo.
- The cells that will become vital organs, such as the future heart and brain, are developing.
- The blood vessels begin to form.
- Your baby's weight is less than 1 ounce and length is less than 1/8 inch.



6 Weeks of Gestation (4 weeks after conception)

- Your baby's heart begins to form. The heart starts to beat.
- The brain and the spinal cord begin to form.
- The lungs, liver, stomach and other major organs begin to form.
- The arm and leg buds (the structures that will become the limbs) are present.
- The eyes and ears begin to form.
- Your baby is less than 1/4 inch long.



8 Weeks of Gestation *(6 weeks after conception)*

- Your baby's developing heart beats with a regular rhythm.
- Facial features — the eyes, nose, lips and tongue — start to form.
- All essential organs have begun to form.
- The spinal nerves begin to develop.
- The brain continues to develop.
- The arms and legs grow longer.
- The fingers and toes are developing.
- Sex organs are beginning to form.
- Your baby is 1/2 inch long.



10 Weeks of Gestation *(8 weeks after conception)*

- Your baby has his or her first spontaneous movements (movements that happen on their own).
- Elbows are formed, and fingernails appear.
- The eyelids are more developed.
- The external ears begin to take final shape.
- Facial features continue to develop.
- Cells that sense touch begin to form.
- The nerves that will control your baby's organs are formed.
- Activity in your baby's brain can be recorded.
- After the end of this week, the baby is scientifically referred to as a fetus.
- Your baby is about 1 ¼ to 1 ½ inches from head to bottom.



12 Weeks of Gestation *(10 weeks after conception)*

- Your baby moves, but you cannot feel the movements.
- All the body parts and organs are present and growing.
- The heartbeat can be heard with electronic devices.
- The body grows rapidly.
- The body grows longer, and the neck lengthens.
- The eyelids close and will not reopen until about the 28th week.
- Fingernails appear.
- Teeth buds begin to form.
- Your baby weighs about half an ounce and is about 2 1/2 inches long from head to bottom.



Your baby's development

14 Weeks of Gestation *(12 weeks after conception)*

- Your baby's taste buds are developing.
- The arms and legs begin to move.
- Hiccup movements are present.
- The external sex organs are developed and are clearly either male or female.
- Your baby can respond to skin contact.
- Your baby is about 3½ inches long from head to bottom and weighs about 1½ ounces.



16 Weeks of Gestation *(14 weeks after conception)*

- Your baby's swallowing and chest movements are clearly present.
- The mouth makes sucking motions.
- Hand-to-face movements are common.
- The eyes are beginning to move.
- Your baby is about 4¾ inches long from head to bottom and weighs less than 4 ounces.



18 Weeks of Gestation *(16 weeks after conception)*

- You may feel the movements of your baby's arms and legs.
- The kidneys are functioning and make urine.
- Taste buds are present.
- The skin is wrinkled.
- Features further develop — eyelids, ear and upper lip.
- Your baby is about 5½ inches long from head to bottom and weighs about 7 ounces.



20 Weeks of Gestation *(18 weeks after conception)*

- Your baby is more active, moves about every minute, and you can feel the movements.
- Breathing-like movements become regular and can be seen by ultrasound.
- The structures of the ears are well-developed. Your baby can hear and respond to a growing range of sounds.
- Hair begins to grow on the head.
- All skin layers and structures are present, including hair follicles and glands.
- Your baby can swallow at the end of this week.
- Ovaries containing eggs are present in females and testes begin to descend in males.
- Meconium (a greenish mixture of swallowed cells and secretions) begins to form in the intestinal tract. This will be your baby's first bowel movement.
- Your baby weighs about 11 ounces and is about 6 inches from head to bottom.



22 Weeks of Gestation *(20 weeks after conception)*

- Your baby sleeps and wakes regularly. Your baby can be awakened from sleep by noises and your movements.
- The eyelids and eyebrows are formed.
- The vocal cords are developing.
- The nervous system continues to develop.
- Movements become more coordinated.
- The heartbeat can be heard with a stethoscope.
- The body is covered with fine hair called lanugo.
- Your baby weighs about 1 pound and is about 7 to 7 ½ inches in length from head to bottom.



24 Weeks of Gestation *(22 weeks after conception)*

- Your baby will blink and startle (pull in arms and legs) if stimulated.
- Skin is wrinkled and red.
- The senses of smell and taste are developed.
- A baby born at this time will attempt to breathe, but the lungs are not fully developed.
- Your baby weighs about 1.4 pounds and is about 8 inches from head to bottom.



Your baby's development

26 Weeks of Gestation *(24 weeks after conception)*

- Your baby's developing lungs are now fully formed but are not yet ready to function outside the womb.
- The lines on the skin of the fingers (future fingerprints), toes, palms of the hands and soles of the feet are now formed.
- Your baby weighs about 1.8 pounds and is about 9 inches from head to bottom.



28 Weeks of Gestation *(26 weeks after conception)*

- Your baby's brain and nervous system are formed and continue to develop.
- The lungs and digestive system are formed and continue to develop.
- The eyes are partially open, and eyelashes are present.
- Your baby weighs about 2.2 pounds and is almost 10 inches from head to bottom.



30 Weeks of Gestation *(28 weeks after conception)*

- Your baby kicks and stretches.
- Your baby makes grasping motions and responds to sound.
- The nervous system controls some body functions.
- Your baby weighs about 2.9 pounds and is more than 10 ½ inches from head to bottom.



32 Weeks of Gestation *(30 weeks after conception)*

- Your baby gains weight, and the body fills out.
- Toenails and fingernails are growing.
- The pupils will react to light.
- Your baby weighs about 4 pounds and is almost 11 inches from head to bottom.



34 Weeks of Gestation *(32 weeks after conception)*

- Your baby is active (moving) 60 percent or more of the time.
- Bones harden, but the skull remains soft and flexible for delivery.
- Your baby has rhythmic breathing movements, and the lungs continue to develop.
- Your baby weighs about 4.6 pounds and is almost 12 inches from head to bottom.



36 Weeks of Gestation *(34 weeks after conception)*

- Your baby rapidly gains weight in preparation for birth.
- The body and face fill out; the skin no longer appears wrinkled.
- The fingernails reach the ends of the fingertips.
- Large amounts of immune factors (substances in the blood that protect against disease or infection) are passed from you to your baby during the last four gestational weeks.
- Your baby weighs about 5.5 pounds and is about 12 ½ inches from head to bottom.



38 Weeks of Gestation *(36 weeks after conception)*

- Your baby's lungs and brain are developing rapidly.
- Your baby can grasp firmly.
- Your baby weighs about 6.4 pounds and is about 13 1/3 inches from head to bottom.



40 Weeks of Gestation *(38 weeks after conception)*

- Your baby is fully developed and considered full-term.
- The brain and nervous system will continue to develop after birth.
- Your baby's toenails have reached the tips of the toes.
- Small breast buds are present.
- The fingernails extend beyond fingertips.
- Your baby weighs about 7.5 pounds and is about 14 inches from head to bottom.



Abortion risks

This section describes the risks associated with an abortion. The risks of having an abortion can vary depending on several factors.

Death

You have a greater risk of dying from the abortion procedure and having serious complications the further along you are in your pregnancy. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently reported 0.73 legal abortion-related deaths per 100,000 reported legal abortions in the United States from 2008-2011.ⁱⁱⁱ Studies of other highly developed countries have shown a higher mortality rate from legal abortion.^{iv}

Physical Risks

Additionally, abortion could result in physical side effects, with different levels of severity. A woman will usually have cramping and vaginal bleeding after any type of abortion procedure. Other symptoms or side effects include nausea (feeling sick to your stomach) or vomiting,

diarrhea, warmth or chills, headache, dizziness and fatigue (feeling very tired).

Abortions and miscarriages (also called spontaneous abortions) can result in complications such as injuries to the internal organs, blood clots or serious infections. These will be listed in detail for each type of abortion later in this booklet.

Mental Health Risks

Women report a range of emotions after an abortion. This can include depression or thoughts of suicide. Some women, after their abortion, have also reported feelings of grief, anxiety, lowered self-esteem, regret, sexual dysfunction, avoidance of emotional attachment, flashbacks and substance abuse. For some women, these emotions may appear immediately after an abortion or gradually over a longer period of time.





These feelings may recur or be felt more strongly at the time of another abortion, a normal birth or on the anniversary of the abortion. It is important to talk to your doctor if you experience these feelings.

Women with a history of mental health problems are more likely to have mental health problems following an abortion. These women may need additional support.

Counseling or support before you make a decision to have an abortion is very important. If family help and support are not available to you, talking with a spiritual or professional counselor before having an abortion can help you better understand your decision. Many pregnancy resource centers can provide counsel to you. These centers are listed in the resource directory.

Future Infertility

The further along you are in your pregnancy, the greater the chance of serious complications that can cause you to be infertile and the greater the risk of dying from the abortion procedure. Some complications associated with an abortion, such as an infection, a cut or a torn cervix, may make it difficult or impossible to become pregnant in the future or to carry a pregnancy to term.

Breast Cancer Risk^v

Your pregnancy history affects your chances of getting breast cancer. If you give birth to your baby, you are less likely to develop breast cancer in the future. Research indicates that having an abortion will not provide you this increased protection against breast cancer. In addition, doctors and scientists are actively studying the complex biology of breast cancer to understand whether abortion may affect the risk of breast cancer. If you have a family history of breast cancer or breast disease, ask your doctor how your pregnancy will affect your risk of breast cancer.

Making an informed decision

You need to know as much as you can about your options in order to make an informed decision. Each option has possible risks and benefits. There are counseling services available to help you fully understand your options and make your decision.

Before an Abortion

You should ask your doctor about any risks you might face. It is your right and your doctor's responsibility to make sure you are informed before deciding to have an abortion. Here are some things the doctor should talk to you about:

- You will find out for sure if you are pregnant and how long you have been pregnant. Your doctor will also do a pelvic exam.
- Your doctor will evaluate your health and discuss medical risks of having an abortion. You will have a physical exam, be asked about your medical history and have lab tests done. The doctor will answer any questions you might have.
- Your doctor will describe the baby growing in your womb to you and give you a list of agencies that offer alternatives to abortion, including adoption, and the names of agencies and private counseling organizations that provide sonogram services (images of the baby in the womb or ultrasound). Some organizations provide sonograms for free.

If you decide to have an abortion:

- At least 24 hours before an abortion is performed, the doctor will give you an sonogram and tell you what you are seeing, including the size of your baby and any heartbeat, limbs and internal organs. The doctor is required to show you the sonogram picture while it is being performed. You may choose not to view these images of your baby. You have the right to view your sonogram at any time.

- If you are under the age of 18, a parent or guardian must be notified and agree to the abortion, or you will have to ask a judge to waive that notification and consent requirement.
- The doctor performing the abortion must provide you with the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) *A Woman's Right to Know* printed materials and let you know that the materials are available on the DSHS website. You will have at least a full day to read the information your doctor gives you before the appointment for your abortion. You must sign a written consent for that abortion.
- Your doctor must provide you with a telephone number that you can call 24 hours a day to talk with the doctor or other healthcare personnel about any complications or questions related to the abortion and the name and telephone number of the hospital that is closest to your home where you could be treated in the case of an abortion-related emergency.
- Your doctor may offer you a medical abortion, which is a medication given to cause an abortion. If a medical abortion is performed, your doctor must provide you with a copy of the final printed label of any abortion-inducing drugs used in the procedure.



Medical and Social Assistance

Your doctor must give you certain important information before the abortion can be done, including:

- Medical assistance benefits that can help with prenatal care, childbirth and neonatal care.
- The legal responsibilities of the baby's father in helping to support your child if you decide to stay pregnant and keep the baby. The law says he must help even if he offered to pay for an abortion.
- Public and private agencies that can help you if you were raped or a victim of incest.
- Public and private agencies that can give you information about preventing pregnancies and medical referrals for birth control methods.

You should know that if you choose to have your baby and find yourself weighed down by the job of being a parent, Texas has the "Baby Moses/Safe Haven" law. The law allows you or the baby's father to leave a baby who appears to be under 60 days old in the care of a designated emergency care provider such as an emergency medical services station, fire

station, licensed child-placing agency or any hospital. You do not have to return for the baby, and you will not be charged with a crime if the baby is unharmed.

Child Support Services

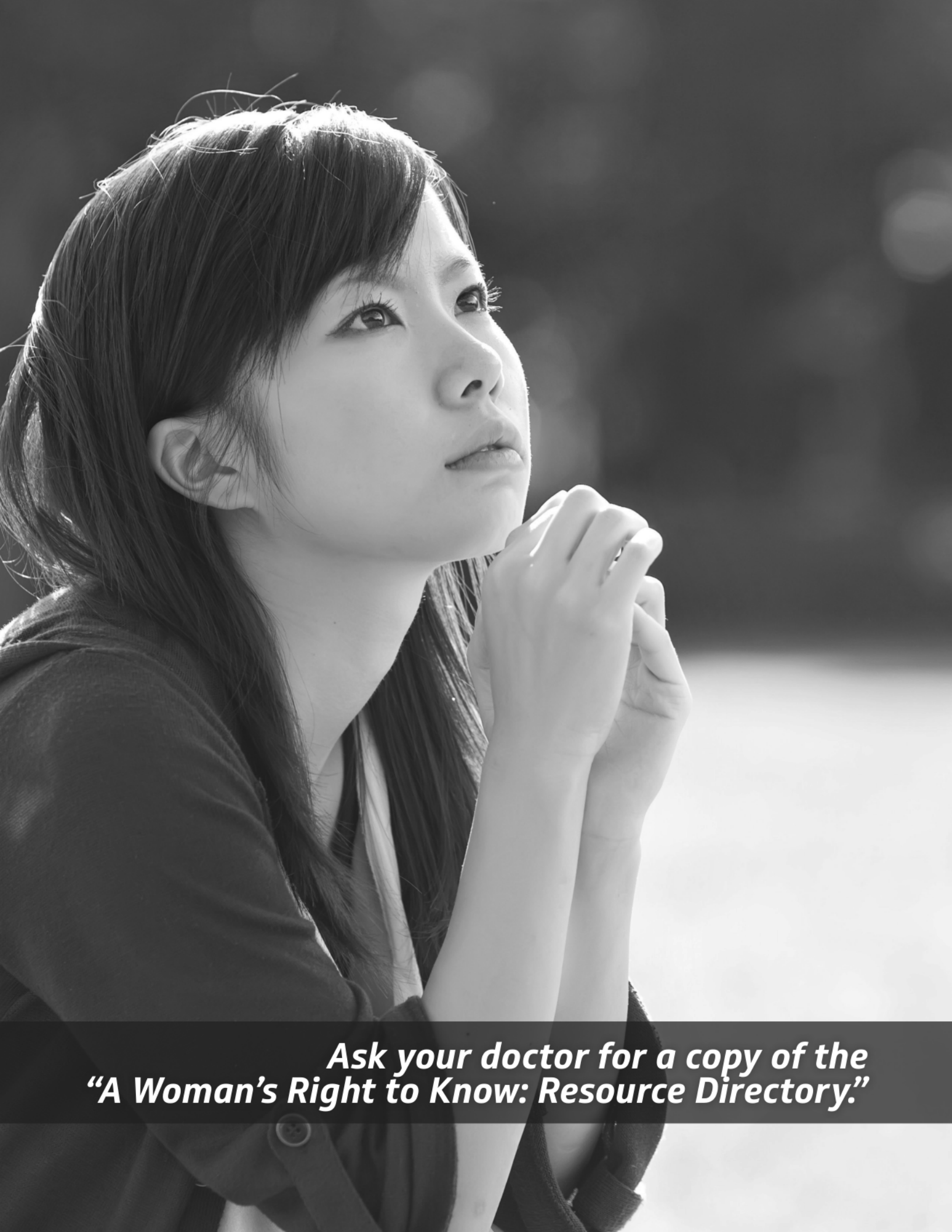
Assistance in Obtaining Child Support

Your child's father is legally required to pay to support the child, and the Texas Office of the Attorney General can assist you in obtaining this support. The Attorney General's Child Support Division can help locate missing fathers, legally prove who the father is, initiate child support orders and collect child support payments. Texas is the top-performing state in terms of ensuring parents pay what they owe, with more than \$3.9 billion disbursed to families in 2015 alone. Texas has a high collection success rate: 65.2 percent of all child support amounts due are collected. If you need services, call 800-252-8014 or visit

www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/cs. If you are a survivor of family violence, there are steps you can take to pursue child support safely.

For more information, visit
www.getchildsupportsafely.org.





***Ask your doctor for a copy of the
"A Woman's Right to Know: Resource Directory."***

Adoption Services

Another option to consider is adoption. Adoption means you, as the birth parent, are voluntarily transferring your rights as the parent of your baby to another family. Choosing adoption means you want your baby to have a good life, but right now may not be the best time for you to be a parent.

Adoption is a brave, loving choice for your baby. When you place your baby for adoption, you are placing him or her with loving parents who can raise your baby to have the good life that you want for your baby.

There are many resources available to help you decide whether adoption is the right choice for you and your baby. Each adoption is different, and help is available to make sure that the adoption process fits you and your baby's needs.

If you choose adoption, you may be able to select and meet the family who will adopt your baby. There are two different types of adoptions

that you can choose for your baby. An open adoption allows you to stay in contact with your baby as he or she grows up, perhaps through pictures, phone calls or visits. A closed adoption means there will be no contact between you and the family adopting your baby once the adoption is finalized. What type of adoption you want is entirely up to you.

Talk with a family member, a spiritual or professional counselor, or a close friend to seek their advice on adoption. Since adoption is a big decision, you may want the support of those you trust when making this decision.

It is never too late to choose adoption for your baby. You can make this choice anytime during your pregnancy or even after your baby has been born.

You can find more information about adoption and organizations that offer adoption services at www.dfps.state.tx.us/Adoption_and_Foster_Care/About_Adoption/.



Abortion procedures and side effects

The types of abortion procedures include medical abortions and surgical abortions. A woman will usually have cramping and vaginal bleeding after any type of abortion procedure. There are other symptoms or side effects that may occur with any type of abortion procedure. These can include nausea (feeling sick to your stomach) or vomiting, diarrhea, warmth or chills, headache, dizziness and fatigue (feeling very tired). Also, other serious complications sometimes arise. This section will also discuss the risk of complications for each of the methods.

First Trimester Abortions

During the first trimester (through 13 weeks of gestation) an abortion can be performed through medicine or surgery.

Medical (Nonsurgical) Abortion

Medical abortion uses medicine to end a pregnancy instead of surgery and is used early in pregnancy —70 days (10 weeks) or less from the first day of your last menstrual period. This method requires several visits to your doctor. The medicines used for a medical abortion cause bleeding, cramping and passing of the fetus and other tissue. In some cases, excessive bleeding may require blood transfusions, treatment with medication, surgery or saline transfusions. Severe infection is a known risk following a medical abortion.

Possible complications or risks of a medical abortion using mifepristone and misoprostol pills:^{vi}

- Less than 3 percent of procedures will not work and will result in a surgical procedure to end the pregnancy or complete the abortion.
- More than 15 of every 100 women with a medical abortion will experience nausea, weakness, fever/chills, vomiting, headache, diarrhea or dizziness.
- About 3 to 5 of every 100 procedures results in a visit to the emergency room.
- In up to 6 of every 1,000 procedures, hospitalization related to medical abortion will be required.
- Hemorrhaging (heavy bleeding) may occur.

- In about every 4 of 100 procedures, medications are needed to control bleeding.
- About 1 of every 100 procedures will require a surgical procedure to stop bleeding and to remove parts of the baby and the placenta.
- In up to 5 of every 1,000 procedures, blood transfusions will be administered.
- Failure to remove all parts of the baby and other tissue, including the placenta, may require a follow-up surgical procedure.
- Increased risk of infertility (the inability to have a baby) may result if complications occur with the procedure.
- In 2 of every 1,000 procedures, serious bacterial infections have been reported. Rarely, severe infection after a medical abortion has resulted in death.



Who should not have a medical abortion?

Some women should not have a medical abortion. Some reasons a medical abortion would not be done include:

- It has been more than 70 days (10 weeks) since the first day of your last menstrual period.
- You are allergic to one of the medications to be used.
- You have or might have a tubal or ectopic pregnancy (where the baby grows outside of the uterus).
- You have an intrauterine contraceptive device (IUD). The IUD must be taken out before a doctor can give you the medicine.
- You have been taking certain types of medicines, like blood thinners or certain steroids.
- You have a particular medical condition, like uncontrolled seizures or a bleeding disorder.
- You have problems with your adrenal glands (chronic adrenal failure).
- You cannot get to all of the visits needed to get the medicines to complete the abortion or cannot get to the checkup(s) needed after the abortion.
- You cannot get to emergency care if needed in the two weeks after taking the medicines.

You should discuss with your doctor whether you have any medical conditions or other problems that would make a medical abortion unsafe for you.

When having a medical abortion, your doctor will give you mifepristone (formerly called RU 486 and now often referred to by the brand name Mifeprex®) during an office visit. It is taken by mouth. After receiving mifepristone, you will have vaginal bleeding and pass clots and fetal tissue. Bleeding usually lasts 9 to 16 days and may last up to 30 days. Your doctor will make an appointment for two days after you take mifepristone. If the medical abortion is not complete, you will be given a second drug, misoprostol. Misoprostol may cause cramps, nausea, diarrhea and other symptoms. Your doctor may send you home with medicine for these symptoms.

Your doctor will make a follow-up appointment for you within 14 days of the day you take the medication. Your doctor will check your health for any symptoms you may be experiencing, as well as whether your pregnancy has completely ended. Make sure to discuss any physical and emotional symptoms you are experiencing with your doctor. Before your follow-up appointment, you may need to seek immediate medical attention if you experience severe symptoms.



Abortion procedures and side effects

First Trimester Abortions (cont.)

Suction Curettage (Surgical Abortion)

The most common type of abortion is the suction curettage, sometimes called a dilation and curettage, or vacuum curettage.

Most women will have some pain with this procedure. Before the procedure, you may be given pain medication, a sedative or both. For the procedure, you may receive local anesthesia injected or applied in the area of the cervix. You may also receive general anesthesia that will put you to sleep so that you do not feel pain during the procedure.

The doctor inserts a speculum to hold open the vagina, as is done for a pelvic exam, and injects or applies local anesthesia. The cervix is stretched open. Then the contents of the uterus, including the baby and placenta, are removed using a suction device that is inserted into the uterus.

The procedure usually takes 10 to 15 minutes, but can take longer depending upon the growth stage of the baby.

Possible complications or risks of suction curettage include:^{vii}

- Hemorrhaging (heavy bleeding) with possible emergency hysterectomy (removal of the uterus) to end the bleeding
- Perforation of the uterus (a hole in the uterus)
- Injury to the bowel or bladder, if there is a perforation of the uterus
- Abdominal incision and operation to correct injury
- Failure to remove all parts of the baby and other tissue, including the placenta, which may require another procedure (occurs in fewer than 5 per 100 procedures, or less than 5 percent)^{viii}

- Increased risk of infertility (the inability to have a baby), if complications occur with the procedure
- Infection, which is usually caused by an infection the woman already had at the time of the abortion



Second Trimester Abortions

During the second trimester (between 13 weeks of gestation and 22 weeks of gestation) an abortion can be performed by a surgical method known as dilation and evacuation.*

Dilation and Evacuation

Most second trimester abortions are done by dilation and evacuation (D&E). This surgical procedure is usually performed in a surgical center or hospital.

Before this procedure, the doctor will prepare the cervix. This process softens and stretches open the cervix and may require one or more visits.

The softening and opening of the cervix before performing the D&E helps decrease the risk of tears or lacerations to the cervix.

Most women will experience some pain with this procedure. Before the procedure you may be given pain medicine, a sedative or both. For the procedure, you may receive local or regional anesthesia injected or applied in the area of the cervix. You may also receive general anesthesia that will put you to sleep during the procedure. Your doctor will discuss your options, and any risks, for anesthesia.

At the beginning of the procedure, the doctor will make sure that the cervix is open. The fluid surrounding the baby (amniotic fluid) will be removed with a suction device placed into the uterus. The baby and placenta are removed from the uterus using surgical instruments. Finally, a suction device will be inserted into the uterus at the end of the procedure to remove any fetal tissue that remains. After 14 weeks

of pregnancy, the baby, placenta and other contents of the womb may be removed piece by piece using surgical instruments. This procedure usually takes less than one hour.

Possible complications or risks of a D&E include:^x

- Death, in rare cases
- Cervical laceration (tears or injury to the cervix)
- Hemorrhaging (heavy bleeding) with possible emergency hysterectomy (removal of the uterus) to end the bleeding
- Perforation of the uterus (a hole in the uterus)
- Injury to the bowel or bladder, if there is a perforation of the uterus
- Abdominal incision and operation to correct injury
- Failure to remove all parts of the baby and other tissue, including the placenta, which may require another procedure
- Increased risk of infertility (the inability to have a baby), if complications occur with the procedure
- Embolism (a loose blood clot or amniotic fluid, fetal cells, fetal hair or other matter in the bloodstream that causes sudden blockage of blood flow to the lungs or other organ)

** Note: Texas law states that abortion may not be performed after the post-fertilization age of 20 weeks or more, which is approximately 22 weeks or more of gestation, as gestation is defined in this booklet. Texas law allows for exceptions when the life of the mother is threatened, serious risk exists of irreversible impairment of a major bodily function (other than a psychological condition) or a severe fetal abnormality is present.*

Pregnancy and childbirth

Birth is a life-changing experience, and each birth brings a new and different set of experiences and feelings. Pregnancy and birth is usually a safe and natural process, although complications can occur.

There are complications associated with pregnancy and childbirth. The most common complications of pregnancy include:

- Tubal or ectopic pregnancy (where the baby grows outside of the uterus)
- High blood pressure
- Complicated delivery
- Premature labor
- Depression
- Infection
- Diabetes
- Hemorrhaging (heavy bleeding)

You can reduce the risk for problems or complications in any pregnancy by:

- Getting early and regular prenatal care.
- Eating a well-balanced diet and getting regular exercise.
- Avoiding tobacco, alcohol or drugs that your doctor hasn't prescribed for you.

During labor, the uterus contracts and pushes to deliver the baby. The baby may be delivered through the woman's vagina or by a surgical procedure called cesarean section or c-section.

Vaginal Delivery

Possible side effects and risks:

- Injury to the bladder or rectum
- A hole (fistula) between the bladder and vagina or the rectum and vagina
- Hemorrhaging (heavy bleeding)
- Infertility (the inability to have a baby) due to infection or complications
- Emergency treatment for any of the above

problems, including the possible need to treat with an operation, medicine or blood transfusions

- Death (very rare — 1.7 in-hospital deaths occurring after delivery per 100,000 vaginal deliveries during 2000-2006^{xi})

Cesarean Birth

Possible side effects and risks:

- Injury to the bowel or bladder
- Infertility (the inability to have a baby) due to infection or complications
- Hemorrhaging (heavy bleeding)
- Injury to the tube (ureter) between the kidney and bladder
- A possible hysterectomy (removal of the uterus) due to complications or injuries
- Complications from anesthesia such as respiratory problems, headaches or drug reactions
- Emergency treatment for any of the above problems, including the possible need to treat with an operation, medicine or blood transfusions
- Death (very rare — 12.7 in-hospital maternal deaths per 100,000 cesarean deliveries occurring during 2000-2006 ^{xi})



Postpartum Symptoms

The feelings you experience after birth may be the most intense you have ever encountered: great surges of joy and happiness, feelings of contentment and fulfillment. It is not uncommon for women to also experience fears, worries or sadness. Depression can occur after the birth of a baby, and many new mothers experience various degrees of it. While depression can occur within days after delivery, it can also appear gradually, and sometimes it doesn't start until a year after your baby's birth.

In most cases, mothers have mild symptoms that may last only a few days. However, some mothers experience severe symptoms that can include exhaustion, feelings such as worthlessness or hopelessness, and memory loss.

In some circumstances, you may be diagnosed with postpartum depression (PPD). PPD can

occur up to 1 year after delivery but is typically apparent during pregnancy (50 percent of the time) and about 1–3 weeks after childbirth. PPD is characterized by intense feelings of sadness, anxiety or despair that prevents the new mother from being able function normally on a daily basis.

In rare circumstances you may have a fear of harming yourself or your baby. You should call your doctor right away and discuss these symptoms. If your doctor is not available, call 9-1-1. Doctors can give you professional help and support during this time.

Women with a history of mental health problems are more likely to have mental health problems following birth. These women may need additional support.

If you have questions or concerns, be sure to talk with your doctor or other health care provider.



After an abortion

Call the facility or doctor that performed the abortion, or go to the emergency room if:

- Heavy bleeding occurs (two or more thick pads per hour for two hours in a row) or if you are concerned about heavy bleeding.
- You have stomach pain or discomfort, or feel sick (such as feeling weak or having an upset stomach, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea), with or without fever, for more than 24 hours after taking misoprostol for a medical abortion.
- You have a fever (higher than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or 38 degrees Celsius).
- You have difficulty breathing or have shortness of breath.
- You have chest pain.

- Pain is severe or not controlled by pain medication.
- You are disoriented.

Your doctor will schedule one or more follow-up visits, usually beginning within two to three weeks after the procedure. Your doctor must schedule a follow-up visit within 14 days of a medical abortion. It is important that you keep all of your appointments.

You should also consider seeking counseling if you are experiencing depression, thoughts of suicide or other psychological distress following your abortion.

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ⁱⁱ Fetal development citations

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ⁱⁱⁱ Pazol K, Creanga AA, Jamieson DJ; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2015). *Abortion Surveillance - United States, 2012*. *Maternal Mortality Weekly Review Surveillance Summaries*. 64(10):1–40. Available: http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/ss6410a1.htm?s_cid=ss6410a_e. Last accessed 9/10/2016.

^{iv} Large-scale studies of public health records in Denmark and Finland, which provide state-funded abortion, have shown a higher risk of death.

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^v Breast cancer citations:

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Publication number 1-450 • Revised December 2016.



To:	"Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4caeb9900d27435daf018df146c4f075-Bowman, Mat>"
Subject:	FW: Update on pregnant UAC? - Request for Additional Information
Date:	2017/10/31 22:40:44
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Privileged—legal advice

Matt, please advise as to legal issues:

Jessica,

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2017 2:39 PM
To: Lloyd, Scott (ACF)
Subject: FW: Update on pregnant UAC? - Request for Additional Information

Scott,

FYSA, latest update on the currently pregnant UAC at IES LF facility.

From: Brooks, Teresa (ACF)
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2017 2:34 PM
To: Sualog, Jallyn (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: Fwd: Update on pregnant UAC? - Request for Additional Information

Please see the information in the correspondence below per your request.

Thank you,

Teresa

From: "Jessica Martinez" <jessica.martinez@iestex.org>
Subject: RE: Update on pregnant UAC? - Request for Additional Information
Date: 31 October 2017 12:35
To: "Brooks, Teresa (ACF)" <Teresa.Brooks@ACF.hhs.gov>, "(b)(6)@iestex.org" <(b)(6)@iestex.org>
Cc: "(b)(6)@iestex.org", "(b)(6)@iestex.org" <(b)(6)@iestex.org>

Good Morning Teresa,

As discussed, I apologize for delay, I was at children's program earlier and had not seen your email request.

With regards to UAC voicing "TOP", her pregnancy has been confirmed by Dr. (b)(6) OB/GYN. UAC's initial OB/GYN appointment took place on 10/27, UAC verbally consented to entire medical exam, including sonogram and 1st trimester lab work. OB/GYN noted minor was approximately 9 weeks' gestation on 10/27/17. Following the completion of doctor's examination, UAC informed Dr. (b)(6) that she did not want a baby and openly informed Dr. (b)(6) she is seeking to terminate pregnancy. Dr. (b)(6) acknowledged UAC's statement and responded that she should discuss her options further with care provider. UAC responded to Dr. (b)(6) that care provider was aware of her wishes, UAC was in the presence of Medical Coordinator and Dr. (b)(6) stated to Medical Coordinator that his office could provide information regarding local "options counseling" and other resources, program Medical Coordinator informed Dr. (b)(6) that program would elevate minor's request to appropriate officials and seek further guidance before discussing minor's request. Dr. (b)(6) stated he understood and reiterated that should minor undergo procedure he would be prepared to conduct follow-up with her after procedure. At no point in time during initial OB appointment were any "options" discussed with UAC, care provider staff and Dr. (b)(6) did not issue information or resources to UAC, instead care provider and doctor listened attentively and informed her that her request would be noted. UAC's next OB/GYN appointment in 11/21/17 at 9:00 a.m.

UAC disclosed pregnancy to her mother on 10/26, however she has not disclosed her request for "TOP". In addition, sponsor is not aware of pregnancy or UAC's request for "TOP". At this time, minor has stated she is not willing to inform sponsor of pregnancy and we continue working with UAC with regards to sharing her request for "TOP" with her mother. UAC has requested to meet with ProBAR (legal service provider) follow up with legal service provider is pending.

Please be advised at this time care provider has received an incomplete FRA from sponsor (unverified brother in law). Care provider has received UAC's birth certificate, UAC's adult sister (sponsor's wife) birth certificate and UAC's mother's birth certificate. In addition, UAC's mother has provided a notarized letter from home country authorizing sponsor to take care and take custody of UAC. However, sponsor has yet to provide a copy of his birth certificate and a copy of marriage certificate (to prove formal relationship with UAC). As previously reported, sponsor resides and works in Wendell, Idaho, the nearest fingerprint site is an 8 hour drive, however sponsor stated he would make the necessary arrangements to travel to site. Sponsor has not returned Authorization for Relapse of Information forms therefore fingerprint appointment has not been scheduled. Please also note that minor's adult sister and 1-year-old nephew remain in DHS custody. According to sponsor he has not had communication with his wife (UAC's sister). Sponsor also has reported he resides in a home with other adult household members, his brother, his brother's wife and their children. At this time sponsor has not reported any criminal history with the exception of an immigration arrest. Sponsor disclosed that he and his son (4 years old at the time) were apprehended approximately 3 years ago upon entering the U.S. without proper documents or inspection. According to sponsor he is attending immigration proceedings and he is without legal status. Sponsor reported he intends to comply with all immigration hearings. Please also note that UAC has denied a history of abuse, mistreatment or neglect, there is no known history of trauma and UAC has described her relationship with her mother as "positive".

Please advise if further information is needed or if there any further questions or concerns, thank you.

Jessica Martinez, MA, LCCA

Program Director

IES Shelter Los Fresnos

International Educational Services, Inc.

P.O. Box 112

Los Fresnos, TX 78566

Phone: 956-233-5705 ext: 1410

Cell: 956-(b)(6)

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Jessica.martinez@iestex.org



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From: Brooks, Teresa (ACF) [mailto:Teresa.Brooks@ACF.hhs.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2017 9:02 AM
To: Jessica Martinez <jessica.martinez@iestex.org>; (b)(6)@iestex.org
Cc: (b)(6)@iestex.org; (b)(6)@iestex.org
<(b)(6)@iestex.org>
Subject: FW: Update on pregnant UAC? - Request for Additional Information
Importance: High

Please see the information request below.

Please provide the information as requested as promptly as is possible.

Thank you!

Teresa

Teresa Brooks

Federal Field Specialist Supervisor, South Texas

HHS ACF ORR DUCO

202.631.3775

Teresa.Brooks@acf.hhs.gov

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2017 5:07 PM
To: Brooks, Teresa (ACF); Sualog, Jallyn (ACF)
Subject: Update on pregnant UAC?
Importance: High

Teresa/Jallyn,

Would you please update me on the latest in reunification progress for the UAC at IES LF who is currently pregnant and expresses interest in TOP? Appreciate latest on OBGYN appointment outcomes, discussion with her mother, and especially on reunification. If you could provide by 10AM Central time Tuesday would be very helpful.

Jonathan

Jonathan White
Commander, US Public Health Service
Deputy Director for Children's Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families
Jonathan.White@acf.hhs.gov
(202) 570-8916

Recipient:	"Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4caeb9900d27435daf018df146c4f075-Bowman, Mat>"
Sent Date:	2017/10/31 22:08:14
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To:	"White, Jonathan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e9b5fe526f1d4ba0a6cc8ddee8ec4d87-Jonathan Wh>"
CC:	"White, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"
Subject:	RE: Update on minor at SWK Campbell requesting TOP
Date:	2018/01/18 07:32:53
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Jonathan,

Thank you. Two things:

- 1) (b)(5)
- 2) Please have the program / federal staff evaluate whether it has been made clear to her that support is readily available if she chooses to parent the child, or if she decides to offer the baby for adoption. Sometimes adoption is an option that is not well-developed, even in some pregnancy resource settings. If the clinician feels that there has been adequate treatment of these options, no follow up is necessary on that front.
- 3) Please

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, January 17, 2018 12:01 PM
To: Lloyd, Scott (ACF)
Cc: White, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Update on minor at SWK Campbell requesting TOP
Importance: High

Update on minor at SWK Campbell in Arizona who is requesting abortion to terminate pregnancy resulting from rape in home country:

- The minor is 16 years of age. She turned 16 on (b)(6) 17.

- The minor is pregnant as a result of rape in home country by a group of unknown men. She reports being approached by unknown men in country of origin, who covered her mouth with a piece of cloth, and then then lost consciousness. She woke up later in an unknown location with her clothes off. She was 15 years old at the time of the rape. She denies having had other sexual experiences.
- The minor was evaluated by OB/GYN services on January 10, 2018, without concerns.
- Gestational development: Based on ultrasound conducted on January 10, the minor was then 10 weeks 1 day. Based on this measurement, gestational age is today **11 weeks 1 day**.
- ORR has not received any report that there is a medically indicated necessity for abortion for the life of the minor.
- The next routine medical appointment is scheduled in two weeks.
- On January 11, the minor attended options counseling at Choices Pregnancy Center (CPC), a crisis pregnancy center from the HHS approved list. The minor was provided with information and reported that her questions were all answered. The minor was provided with “appropriate drawings to color and with Bible verses,” per the SIR.
- On January 16, a family session was conducted, disclosing to the minor’s parents in home country her pregnancy and her decision to pursue TOP. The minor’s clinician was involved. The minor requested that the notification not include the information that that the pregnancy was a result of rape.
- The minor spoke with a pastor from her faith tradition on January 15, 2018.
- On January 16, two family sessions were conducted, disclosing to the minor’s parents in home country her pregnancy and her decision to pursue TOP. The minor’s clinician was involved. A first family session was held with the minor, and the second session the minor asked not to participate. The minor requested that her parents not be informed that the pregnancy is a result of rape, but the family reported that their daughter may have been raped. The minor’s father advised that the parents “agreed to end the pregnancy” and expressed that “if minor is requesting to end the pregnancy they supported her.”
- The SIR addendum for the family notification explains: **“On 1/16/2018 at approximately 3:30 p.m., clinician (b)(6) completed a family session with minor and her father. Minor requested that clinician inform her parents she was pregnant and that she was requesting to end her pregnancy. Minor requested that**

clinician not disclose how minor became pregnant. Furthermore, clinician informed minor’s father that minor was pregnant and requesting

to end the pregnancy. Minor's father was notified that minor was taken to the doctor and it was confirmed she is approximately 10 weeks

pregnant. Minor's father appeared calm and asked clinician if minor could be reunified with his older daughter. Minor's father requested

time to speak to his wife before making a decision on minor's request to end her pregnancy. On 1/16/2018 at approximately 5 p.m., clinician

(b)(6) completed a family session with minor's parents. Minor requested not to be present for the second family session.

Clinician spoke to minor's father who conveyed he had spoken to his wife and decided that they agreed to end the pregnancy. Clinician asked

minor's father to clarify what he agreed to. Minor's father stated he and his wife spoke and consider that minor may have been raped on her

way to school. Minor's father shared that in their home town if a woman is raped, the expectation is that she will marry the man that raped

her. Minor's father stated that he and his wife are not sure that the pregnancy was a result of minor's choices or of a rape. Minor stated that

if minor is requesting to end the pregnancy they supported her. Minor's father also shared that minor is young and still a child herself to be raising a child of her own. Minor's father appeared calm and was respectful as he shared the aforementioned."

- At this time the minor continues her request for TOP "due to the pregnancy being a result of sexual abuse."
- All steps outlined by the ORR Director have been completed. Parental notification has been conducted, in which the family expressed support for their daughter to receive the abortion. The minor has received options counseling from an approved provider. The minor has received spiritual counseling from a pastor of her faith group (evangelical Christian).
- Please advise next steps.

Jonathan

Jonathan D. White
Commander, U.S. Public Health Service
Deputy Director for Children's Programs
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Delivered Date:	2018/01/18 07:32:53
Message Flags:	Unsent

To:	"White, Jonathan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e9b5fe526f1d4ba0a6cc8ddee8ec4d87-Jonathan Wh>"
CC:	"White, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"
Subject:	RE: Update on minor at SWK Campbell requesting TOP
Date:	2018/01/18 16:05:29
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Jonathan,

- 1) (b)(5)
- 2) Please have the program / federal staff evaluate whether the following information has been made adequately clear to the youth, and if not, ask that they offer her the option of receiving more information on these subjects, if they feel they can do so consistent with her mental well being:
 - a. that support is readily available if she chooses to parent the child;
 - b. that support is readily available if she decides to offer the baby for adoption, and that she has been given the opportunity to discuss adoption in depth if she chooses;
 - c. that in some cases, women or minors who have had abortions have expressed regret from having done so, even when pregnancy is the result of sexual assault, and that if she chooses the program can provide for her some written examples of the personal testimony of such women.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, January 17, 2018 12:01 PM
To: Lloyd, Scott (ACF)
Cc: White, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Update on minor at SWK Campbell requesting TOP
Importance: High

Update on minor at SWK Campbell in Arizona who is requesting abortion to terminate pregnancy resulting from rape in home country:

- The minor is 16 years of age. She turned 16 on (b)(6)/17.
- The minor is pregnant as a result of rape in home country by a group of unknown men. She reports being approached by unknown men in country of origin, who covered her mouth with a piece of cloth, and then then lost consciousness. She woke up later in an unknown location with her clothes off. She was 15 years old at the time of the rape. She denies having had other sexual experiences.
- The minor was evaluated by OB/GYN services on January 10, 2018, without concerns.
- Gestational development: Based on ultrasound conducted on January 10, the minor was then 10 weeks 1 day. Based on this measurement, gestational age is today **11 weeks 1 day**.
- ORR has not received any report that there is a medically indicated necessity for abortion for the life of the minor.
- The next routine medical appointment is scheduled in two weeks.
- On January 11, the minor attended options counseling at Choices Pregnancy Center (CPC), a crisis pregnancy center from the HHS approved list. The minor was provided with information and reported that her questions were all answered. The minor was provided with “appropriate drawings to color and with Bible verses,” per the SIR.
- On January 16, a family session was conducted, disclosing to the minor’s parents in home country her pregnancy and her decision to pursue TOP. The minor’s clinician was involved. The minor requested that the notification not include the information that that the pregnancy was a result of rape.
- The minor spoke with a pastor from her faith tradition on January 15, 2018.
- On January 16, two family sessions were conducted, disclosing to the minor’s parents in home country her pregnancy and her decision to pursue TOP. The minor’s clinician was involved. A first family session was held with the minor, and the second session the minor asked not to participate. The minor requested that her parents not be informed that the pregnancy is a result of rape, but the family reported that their daughter may have been raped. The minor’s father advised that the parents “agreed to end the pregnancy” and expressed that “if minor is requesting to end the pregnancy they supported her.”
- The SIR addendum for the family notification explains: **“On 1/16/2018 at approximately 3:30 p.m., clinician (b)(6) completed a family session with minor and her father. Minor requested that clinician**

inform her parents she was pregnant and that she was requesting to end her pregnancy. Minor requested that

clinician not disclose how minor became pregnant. Furthermore, clinician informed minor's father that minor was pregnant and requesting

to end the pregnancy. Minor's father was notified that minor was taken to the doctor and it was confirmed she is approximately 10 weeks

pregnant. Minor's father appeared calm and asked clinician if minor could be reunified with his older daughter. Minor's father requested

time to speak to his wife before making a decision on minor's request to end her pregnancy. On 1/16/2018 at approximately 5 p.m., clinician

(b)(6) completed a family session with minor's parents. Minor requested not to be present for the second family session.

Clinician spoke to minor's father who conveyed he had spoken to his wife and decided that they agreed to end the pregnancy. Clinician asked

minor's father to clarify what he agreed to. Minor's father stated he and his wife spoke and consider that minor may have been raped on her

way to school. Minor's father shared that in their home town if a woman is raped, the expectation is that she will marry the man that raped

her. Minor's father stated that he and his wife are not sure that the pregnancy was a result of minor's choices or of a rape. Minor stated that

if minor is requesting to end the pregnancy they supported her. Minor's father also shared that minor is young and still a child herself to be raising a child of her own. Minor's father appeared calm and was respectful as he shared the aforementioned."

- At this time the minor continues her request for TOP "due to the pregnancy being a result of sexual abuse."
- All steps outlined by the ORR Director have been completed. Parental notification has been conducted, in which the family expressed support for their daughter to receive the abortion. The minor has received options counseling from an approved provider. The minor has received spiritual counseling from a pastor of her faith group (evangelical Christian).
- Please advise next steps.

Jonathan

Jonathan D. White

Commander, U.S. Public Health Service

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

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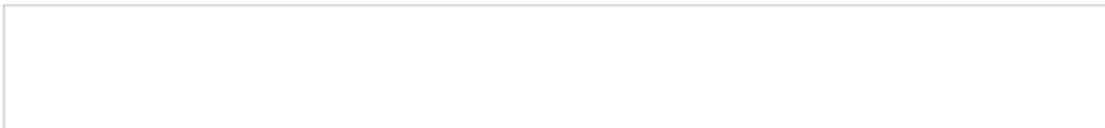
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Recipient:	"White, Jonathan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e9b5fe526f1d4ba0a6cc8ddee8ec4d87-Jonathan Wh>"; "White, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"
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From:	Bulletin Intelligence <HHS@BulletinIntelligence.com>
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HHS News Briefing

TO: THE SECRETARY AND SENIOR STAFF

DATE: MONDAY, JULY 2, 2018 7:30 AM EDT

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Leading the News

Hundreds Of Thousands Protest Administration's Immigration Policy, Separation Of Families.

ABC World News Tonight 📺 Video (6/30, lead story, 2:50, Llamas, 4.58M) reported in its lead story that "we begin tonight with the massive nationwide protests against the President's immigration policy. Tens of thousands of protesters in more than 700 demonstrations, like this one in Chicago, in cities and towns from coast to coast, in every state, urging President Trump to reunite the families separated at the southern border. Part of the fallout from his zero-tolerance immigration policy."

In its lead story, the CBS Weekend News 📺 Video (6/30, lead story, 2:20, Ninan, 2.62M) reported, "Americans across the country are making their voices heard this Fourth of July weekend at loud rallies

from coast to coast. They're demanding that thousands of immigrant children be set free and reunited with their parents. And President Trump may have heard. He tweeted this afternoon that people coming to this country illegally must be escorted out." CBS correspondent Kenneth Craig added, "New York's protest brought an estimated 15,000 to the streets of lower Manhattan over the Trump Administration's zero-tolerance policy on illegal border crossings." Craig also mentioned that HHS said it has custody of more than 2,000 immigrant children separated from their parents.

NBC Nightly News 📺 Video (6/30, lead story, 2:35, Diaz-Balart, 12.78M) reported in its lead story, "Hundreds of thousands of people in communities across the country mobilized today for [im]migrant families, protesting President Trump's policy that separated children from their loved ones. Tonight, more than 2,000 of those children remain in detention centers, in a country that's not their own, far from their parents. The White House mostly silent on the issue today."

The Washington Post (6/30, Lang, Zauzmer, Natanson, 15.68M) reported that on Saturday, some 750 "'Families Belong Together' rallies were planned throughout the country in every state – from big cities such as Boston, Chicago and New York to tiny ones such as Antler, N.D., which has a population of 27." Organizers said about 50,000 people gathered in Washington, DC, although the Post indicated the total number may have been somewhat less than that. All these protesters had one message: "End President Trump's 'zero tolerance' immigration policy, which has split children from their parents and detained families crossing the southern U.S. border." The article added that whenever "the government, Border Patrol agents or the Trump administration" was mentioned, "the crowd erupted into chants of 'shame, shame, shame.'" And "as they passed the Trump International Hotel, protesters booed and chanted 'vote him out.'"

The New York Times (6/30, Yoon-Hendricks, Greenberg, 19.33M) reported that galvanized “by what they view as the cruel treatment of [im]migrants seeking refuge in the United States from violence in their home countries, the crowds turned out Saturday bearing homemade signs that read ‘Abolish ICE’ – the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency – and ‘Zero tolerance for family separation.’” The article said that although “Washington was the political epicenter of the protests, similar scenes unfolded in cities around the country, including large, border cities like El Paso, state capitals like Salt Lake City and Atlanta, and smaller, interior towns like Redding, Calif.” The piece added that for the most part, the protests were peaceful, with only a few arrests.

USA Today (6/30, Hayes, 11.4M) reported on the rallies in all 50 states, but asked, “now what? Will the issue and the outrage fade into the background or help lead to a pivotal moment in the debate over immigration in the U.S.?” A spokesman for MoveOn.org, “one of the organizations behind the nationwide rallies,” said, “I’ve never seen so many people that so deeply care about immigration. This is unlike anything I’ve seen. It’s just a huge amount of opportunity and we have to ride this wave to making change.” The piece added that “activists plan to pressure members of Congress to hold town halls to discuss immigration and force leaders to take a stand when confronted by their constituents.”

The Wall Street Journal (6/30, Raice, Barrett, Duehren, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) reported that protesters said they were angry at President Trump’s actions on immigration, and insisted that the world needs to see a different picture of the US. They carried signs saying, “No child should be kept in a cage” and “Keep families together” and “Immigrants make America great.”

The Arizona Republic (6/30, Carranza, Larson, Steinbach, Janetsky, 1.21M) reported that some "800 people gathered outside the state Capitol building in Phoenix. Many carried signs urging the administration to bring families back together." They encountered "small groups of counterprotesters with megaphones. Some engaged, but the event was mostly peaceful."

Also covering the story were the Orlando (FL) Sentinel (6/30, Santana, 593K), the Atlanta Journal-Constitution (6/30, Hansen, 1.09M), the Asbury Park (NJ) Press (6/30, Mickle, 386K), and Newsday (NY) (6/30, Chayes, 1.52M).

Trump Administration Accused Of Separating Immigrant Families Who Sought Asylum At Ports Of Entry.

The Los Angeles Times (7/1, Esquivel, 4.03M) reports that "the practice of separating families appears to have begun accelerating last year, long before zero tolerance was announced in the spring. Among these cases, according to records and interviews, are many that happened at ports of entry" as immigrants sought asylum in the US. The article adds, "Administration officials have said repeatedly that asylum seekers who don't want to be separated from their children should present themselves at a port of entry. Doing so is the legal way to ask for asylum, they said." However, court documents "describe numerous cases in recent months in which families were separated after presenting themselves at a port of entry to ask for asylum." Attorneys contend that this happened even when asylum seekers had identification and documents proving they were the children's parents.

DOJ Files Documents Which Indicate Administration May Want To Detain Immigrant Families Longer Than The Current Legal Limit.

The Washington Post (6/29, Barrett, 15.68M) reported that the Justice Department on Friday revealed “plans to detain migrant families together in custody rather than release them, according to a new court filing that suggests such detentions could last longer than the 20 days envisioned by a court settlement.” The article added that “the filing comes as the Justice Departments seeks to navigate two different court edicts – an injunction issued this week by a federal judge in San Diego that required the government to begin reuniting the roughly 2,000 migrant children still separated from their families, and an older court settlement in federal court in Los Angeles that requires the immigration agencies to release minors in their custody if they are held for more than 20 days.”

Politico (6/29, Gerstein, 3.51M) reported that only “days after President Donald Trump announced that his administration would ask a federal court to permit detention of immigrant families by modifying a longstanding court settlement, Justice Department lawyers told the Los Angeles-based judge handling the case Friday that no change to the decree may be needed.” Attorneys for the government contend that “a separate injunction a federal judge in San Diego issued Tuesday barring family separations effectively wipes out provisions in the decades-old Flores agreement that have been determined to bar detention of most children in immigration custody for more than 20 days.” They wrote, “The rulings work together to permit detention of parents with their minor children with whom they are apprehended.”

The Hill (6/29, Bowden, 2.71M) reported that the Administration may

seek to “detain migrant families together for months at detention facilities as they await prosecution for illegal entry, according to a court filing from the Justice Department.” While the filing did not specify the potential length of time immigrant families would be detained, immigration proceedings typically take months.

Administration Still Dealing With “Fallout” From Zero Tolerance Policy.

The AP (7/1, Long, Alonso-Zaldivar) reports that in recent Senate testimony, HHS Secretary Alex Azar “could barely conceal his discomfort” as a Democratic senator asked “whether his agency had a role in designing the Trump administration’s ‘zero tolerance’ policy that caused” immigrant children to be separated from their parents. Azar responded, “We deal with the children once they’re given to us. ... So we don’t – we are not the experts on immigration.” The article says separating families “while sidelining the agency responsible for caring for the children was only one example of a communication breakdown in the federal government that left immigrant children in limbo, parents in the dark about their whereabouts and enraged Americans across the country.” The Administration “is still dealing with the fallout: It’s still not clear how officials will implement the policy or comply with a court order requiring that families be reunited within 30 days. Instead, the administration is hoping Congress will fix the mess.”

Congress Leaves For Recess Without Voting On Bill To End Separation Of Immigrant Families.

USA Today (6/29, Kelly, 11.4M) reported that “House and Senate leaders had expressed hope that Congress could act quickly this week to pass a narrow bill that would allow migrant children to remain with their parents at detention centers beyond the current 20-day limit,” but

"both chambers adjourned Thursday without a solution. They will return on July 9."

Top House Dems Want HHS-OIG, Other Agency Watchdogs To Investigate Administration's Zero Tolerance Policy.

The Hill (6/29, Weixel, 2.71M) reported that "top House Democrats are asking federal agency watchdogs for a broad investigation" into the Administration's zero-tolerance immigration policies, "including the separation of children from their parents, as well as the recent executive order intended to partially roll them back." The lawmakers sent a letter Friday to the inspectors general of HHS, DHS, and the Department of Justice asking for a review of the Administration's "entire process for planning and implementing its immigration plan." The letter was signed by Reps. Elijah E. Cummings (D-MD), Jerry Nadler (D-NY), Bennie Thompson (D-MS), Bobby Scott (D-VA), and Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ), the "top Democrats on the House Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, the Judiciary, Homeland Security, Education and the Workforce, and Energy and Commerce."

Dems In Connecticut Denied Access To Immigrant Child Separated From Parents.

Vox (6/29, Kirby, 1.66M) reported that on Friday, Sen. Chris Murphy (D-CT), Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), and Rep. Joe Courtney (D-CT) sought "to visit a child separated from their family who was being housed in a nonprofit facility in Groton, Connecticut." But HHS "denied the lawmakers access, according to Murphy." He tweeted, "The perverse secrecy of child separation should concern us all." Murphy added, "HHS' excuse was that we need to give 14 days notice. ... What?? 14 days of forced separation from your parent can traumatize a

kid for life. And we aren't asking to see nuclear codes – we just wanted 10 min to make sure the child is ok.” An HHS official “said that a visit from the members had not been approved, and confirmed that HHS requires a two-week notification, at minimum, to make sure tours don't interfere with the care of unaccompanied alien children.”

Court Documents Allege Border Agent Wished Immigrant “Happy Mother's Day” After Informing Her Of Impending Separation From Daughter.

The Arizona Republic (6/29, Ruelas, 1.21M) reported, “A Guatemalan woman said in a federal complaint filed this week that a Border Patrol agent in an Arizona detention facility, after informing her that her daughter would be taken away, mockingly wished her a happy Mother's Day.” The American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts is representing the woman in the lawsuit. Attorneys “say they've filed an emergency lawsuit to immediately reunite” the woman “with her daughter, who is only identified in court filings by the initials S.K. They argue that the continued separation violates the due process rights, as well as the Constitution's guarantee of equal protection.”

Immigrant Families Still Separated As “Outrage” Over Zero Tolerance Policy Grows.

ABC World News Tonight 📺 Video (6/29, story 6, 0:40, Muir, 6.53M) reported that despite the growing “outrage” over the Trump Administration's zero-tolerance policy, immigrant children remain separated from their parents. Congress left for recess without passing an immigration bill. The segment mentioned that during her last visit to the border, First Lady Melania Trump was shown “pictures of the six-year-old boy left alone in the desert, possibly by smugglers.” That boy

has since been transferred to HHS' custody.

Some 2,000 Immigrant Children Remain Separated From Their Parents Despite Judge's Order To Reunite Them.

The New York Times (6/30, Correal, 19.33M) reported that despite "protests being held around the country on Saturday to demand the reunification of parents and children separated at the border, progress on putting families back together has been painfully slow." The article said in spite of "a federal judge's order requiring reunification within 30 days, more than 2,000 children remain scattered across 17 states, including some 300 in New York." The piece added that "their parents too have been sent around the country – to detention centers in Arizona, Colorado and as far away as Washington State." While HHS "cit[ed] the possibility that human traffickers might pose as parents [and] said that the government intends to aggressively 'vet' those who wish to gain custody of children," the Times said officials "declined to say how many children had been reunited with their relatives since President Trump ended the separation policy with an executive order."

Sponsors, Parents Reportedly Face High Transport Fees, Red Tape Before They Can Be Reunited With Immigrant Children.

The New York Times (7/1, Jordan, 19.33M) reports on the transport fees and red tape facing the sponsors and parents of immigrant children. The article mentions that "Brenda, a Salvadoran [im]migrant who was separated from her 7-year-old son Kevin at the border on May 27, was charged \$576.20 to cover the boy's airfare from Miami to Virginia. His escort collected the money order at Washington Dulles airport on Friday upon handing over the child to his mother." This is just one of the many "hurdles" sponsors and immigrant parents must

overcome in order to be reunited with children. The piece adds that HHS' "Office of Refugee Resettlement, which has official custody of migrant children under detention and establishes conditions for releasing them, has made it clear that the requirements are intended to make sure children are not released to traffickers, and will be well cared for in their new homes."

CNN (6/29, 82.6M) featured footage of Brenda's reunion with her son at Dulles.

Advocates In New York Seek To Teach Separated Immigrant Children About Their Legal Rights.

The Wall Street Journal (7/1, West, Campo-Flores, Texas, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) reports that advocates in New York are attempting to teach immigrant children separated from their parents about their legal rights. They must use creative methods because many of these children are too young to understand the concept, and some are illiterate. The article mentions that the children are in HHS' custody, while their parents are being held by Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Guatemalan Girl Reunited With Mother After Two-Month Separation.

The Washington Post (7/1, Rozsa, 15.68M) reports on the reunification of a 7-year-old Guatemalan girl who was separated from her family for almost two months by US border officials. The child's mother, Buena Ventura Martin-Godinez, said, "I'm so happy, so happy. ... I didn't know when I would see her again." She added, "She's happy now, but she

wants her daddy,” who remains in detention and faces deportation, adding, “She told me she never, ever wants to be away from her family again.”

The AP (7/1, Replogle, Kennedy) reports, “The little girl was in the custody of a child welfare agency in Michigan and made heartbreaking calls to her mother, asking when they’d be reunited.”

Guatemalan Mother Detained In Arizona Begins Road Trip To New York City To Find Her Children.

The Arizona Republic (7/1, Oza, 1.21M) spotlights Yeni Maricela Gonzalez Garcia, a Guatemalan immigrant who spent a month separated from her three children while detained, who is now driving with a volunteer to New York City to find her children.

Children Representing Themselves In Immigration Courts.

CNN (6/30, Kopan, 82.6M) reported on immigrant children who are coming before immigration judges to “fight for permission to stay in the country.” The article features an immigration attorney whose client was a “crying toddler” that “frazzled” the judge because “she couldn’t believe it.” CNN added, “Toddlers and infants do, in fact, appear before judges in the system to defend themselves against deportation.” The piece cites immigration law experts who “have long opposed the idea of children being able to represent themselves.”

Immigration Playing "Outsized" Role In Arizona's Midterms.

The AP (7/1) reports, "The outrage sparked by the sights, sounds and stories of children separated from parents at the U.S.-Mexico border underscores the outsized role immigration will play in the midterms in Arizona." The article says candidates from both parties are emphasizing immigration as they campaign. The piece adds that for many Arizonans, "the immigration issue is personal," because data indicate "more than 13 percent of Arizona's population as of 2015 were individuals who were born in another country."

Following Visits To Immigration Detention Centers, It Remains To Be Seen What Action First Lady Will Take.

The AP (6/30, Kellman) reported on First Lady Melania Trump's recent visits to the border during which she toured immigrant detention centers. The article said, "Now the question is what she does with that knowledge – and how she meshes it with her dislike for dividing up families and a concurrent belief in strong borders." Stephanie Grisham, a spokeswoman for Mrs. Trump, "says more border visits or talks with lawmakers are possible, but it's not clear what lessons the first lady took from her visits and what she'll communicate to her husband." Grisham added, "She cares about children deeply. ... She also believes in strong border laws and treating everybody equally."

Trump Criticizes Dems Who Are Pushing For ICE To Be Abolished.

The New York Times (7/1, Cochrane, 19.33M) reports that President Trump is attacking "Democratic lawmakers who have called for abolishing Immigration and Customs Enforcement, seeking to seize

political advantage on an issue that has put him on the defensive for weeks and offer a winning message for Republicans facing a forbidding midterm election." During an interview with Fox News' "Sunday Morning Futures," Trump said, "You get rid of ICE, you're going to have a country that you're going to be afraid to walk out of your house." The article adds that Trump also urged "Democratic candidates to embrace demands to dissolve the agency, saying that doing so would doom the party at the polls. 'They're going to get beaten so badly,'" he said.

The Washington Times (7/1, Boyer, 460K) reports Trump "said Sunday that Democrats 'will never win another election' if they keep pushing to abolish Immigration and Customs Enforcement."

In The Face Of Growing Criticism, Trump Defends ICE.

On its front page, the Washington Post (6/30, A1, Nakamura, 15.68M) reported that President Trump "opened a new front in the immigration debate, diverting attention away from his administration's treatment of undocumented immigrants to a broader fight over the federal agency charged with detaining and deporting them." According to the Post, the President in a pair of tweets "forcefully defended the performance of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and lambasted Democrats for pushing a 'radical left' agenda to abolish it, even though only a handful have publicly supported doing so." The article mentioned that once immigrant children are separated from their parents, they are turned over to HHS.

ICE Acting Director Accused Of Perpetuating Falsehood About Zero Tolerance Policy.

The [Huffington Post](#) (6/29, Fang, 4.32M) reported that on Friday, Thomas Homan, acting director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, "perpetuated President Donald Trump's lie that Congress is responsible for the Trump administration's zero tolerance policy of separating young, undocumented immigrant children from their parents at the U.S.-Mexico border." Homan said, "We are enforcing the laws that they enacted. ... We're out, doing our sworn oath, enforcing the laws that they enacted, and they're going to vilify us for doing it."

ICE Raids Reportedly Separating Children From Immigrant Parents.

The [Washington Post](#) (6/30, 15.68M) reported that while the Administration promises "to reunite families separated by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) at the U.S. border, a similar crisis continues unabated within the country's interior, where children are separated from their undocumented parents with little scrutiny and increasing frequency." ICE has, in recent months, "carried out the three biggest workplace immigration raids of the past decade, including one on June 5 at a nursery here in rural Ohio, where 114 gardeners, florists and other workers were detained and put into court proceedings for deportation." Many had lived for several years in a nearby "trailer park of 74 homes known as Little Mexico, where now aid workers estimate that more than 90 children are missing one parent and at least 20 are left with no parent at all."

Advocates Say Separated Immigrant Parents Are Failing Asylum Screenings Because They Are Too Distraught.

The [Huffington Post](#) (6/30, Chapin, 4.32M) reported that advocates say immigrant parents who have been separated from their children "are

too devastated to prepare for their court hearings. Instead, they replay the moment their kids were taken away by Border Patrol, worry about their children's well-being, and ask repeatedly where their sons and daughters are. In some cases, they simply weep." One activist said "over half of the roughly 20 parents she spoke with on Thursday did not pass their 'credible fear' interviews – a process that determines a person's asylum eligibility." She is convinced the parents "are too distressed about their children to effectively tell an asylum officer why they fled their country and could be killed upon return."

Some Concerned Immigrant Children Separated From Parents Could Be Put Up For Adoption.

The Arizona Republic (6/29, White, 1.21M) reported, "Since the Trump administration's zero-tolerance border policy led to the separation of more than 2,300 immigrant children from their relatives since early May, some have wondered: Could these kids end up being adopted by American families?" Some immigrants allege they heard border agents say some of the separated children would be adopted after their parents were deported. HHS "has insisted that separated minors will soon be reunited with their relatives. Foster and adoption agencies have said separated children need to be with their families and will never be put up for adoption." However, "there are a number of scenarios that could complicate that."

The Detroit Free Press (6/30, Baldas, 1.21M) reported that Bethany Christian Services in Michigan insists that separated immigrant parents and children are being reunited. Bethany said the more than 50 children in the state "will not be adopted. These children have families, and we will continue to pursue reunification with their families."

Nonprofit Says Its Database Could Help Unite Separated Immigrant Children With Parents.

The Dallas Morning News (6/29, Solis, 1.05M) reported, "A nonprofit has created a database that could help more than 2,000 immigrant children be swiftly reconnected with their parents even as lawyers and advocates become increasingly frustrated about not knowing where many of the children are." The article said this "database will allow parents and legal representatives who are trying to locate separated children to submit inquiries by phone and email," and "from there, the Vera Institute of Justice, a New York-based nonprofit, and its partners hope to connect the families with attorneys to work on the immigrants' legal cases."

Experts Say More Central American Children Are Immigrating To The US Because Of Violence, Lack Of Opportunities.

The Washington Post (6/29, Schwartz, 15.68M) examined why so many children from Central America are coming to the US. Experts attribute this trend to "economic factors and violence and insecurity. The first group includes the lack of economic opportunity, including a lack of jobs or inadequate opportunities for education. The second group includes violence and victimization, not just by gangs, other criminal groups and state security forces but at home as well."

More Commentary.

The New York Times (6/29, 19.33M) said in an editorial that separating families caught illegally crossing the US-Mexico border exemplifies

"cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation." The Times added, "The Trump administration has committed a gross offense," and urged all Americans to "demand that it promptly reunite these children with their parents."

Author and former Border Patrol agent Francisco Cantú wrote in a New York Times (6/30, 19.33M) op-ed that it is crucial "to understand that the crisis of separation manufactured by the Trump administration is only the most visibly abhorrent manifestation of a decades-long project to create a 'state of exception' along our southern border." He added, "The logic of deterrence is not unlike that of war: It has transformed the border into a state of exception where some of the most vulnerable people on earth face death and disappearance and where children are torn from their parents to send the message You are not safe here. In this sense, the situation at the border has reached a point of crisis – not one of criminality but of disregard for human life."

Jennifer Rubin writes in the Washington Post (7/1, 15.68M) "Right Turn" blog that "President Trump is prepared to incarcerate entire families for indeterminate periods of time for what has been traditionally treated as a misdemeanor." She argues, "This is as inhumane as it is wasteful and dangerous; rather than use resources to go after drug runners and human trafficking and other serious offenses, the administration will be spending resources to stand guard over families."

Alexandra F. Levy, a senior staff attorney at the Human Trafficking Legal Center, wrote in a Washington Post (6/29, 15.68M) op-ed about "who stands to gain from the Trump administration's immigration policies." She said it is not immigrant children or their parents or even the US. Rather, it is the "two largest private prison contractors in the

United States, GEO Group and CoreCivic,” which “house thousands of immigrant detainees across the country. These corporations now face allegations that they force immigrant detainees to perform unpaid labor inside their facilities.”

Sarah Lustbader, a former public defender, writes in the Washington Post (7/1, Lustbader, 15.68M) that the Administration’s defense of its family separation policy “boiled down to the following: The child’s suffering is the price the parent must pay for breaking the rules. Children are, in essence, collateral damage.” Lustbader points out, “Every day, we lock parents up for decades in our prisons regardless of how it will affect their children, and no one bats an eye.” She concludes, “We should be demanding more humanity of our system across the board – not just at the border.”

In an editorial, USA Today (7/1, 11.4M) writes, “Sometime in the not-too-distant future, the United States could face simultaneous crises, and the word of the White House would be crucial.” The editorial goes on to say that “most Americans have come to recognize Trump’s long and sordid abuse of facts,” and “in recent weeks, his falsehoods have come even faster and with greater vigor.” The editorial questions whether the White House will have the requisite credibility when that crisis comes.

Anthony Scaramucci, former White House director of communications, writes in USA Today (7/1, Scaramucci, 11.4M) that following the “child separation fiasco, President Donald Trump doesn’t have a credibility problem – but his chief of staff and the Democrats do.” Scaramucci takes issue with the “messaging” of the policy. He concludes, “The president wants to find common ground, but the ‘resistance’ is peddling false narratives to avoid making a deal,” adding, “the Democrats, not the president, have the real credibility problem.”

The Secretary in the News

Judge Strikes Down Kentucky's Medicaid Work Rules.

The New York Times (6/29, Goodnough, 19.33M) reported that US District Judge James Boasberg on Friday "blocked Kentucky's closely watched plan to require many Medicaid recipients to work, volunteer or train for a job as a condition of coverage." The Times said the ruling in the Kentucky case "is the first on this issue, but it will almost certainly not be the last; the question may wind up before a more conservative Supreme Court with two Trump appointees." The Trump Administration and the state of Kentucky had argued "that Congress gave the health and human services secretary broad discretion to approve Medicaid demonstration projects. Lawyers for the administration also argued that" HHS Secretary Alex Azar "provided plenty of evidence that working improves health." Judge Boasberg disagreed, saying, "While the ultimate decision whether to grant approval rests with the secretary, his discretion is not boundless."

NPR (6/29, Kodjak, 3.55M) reported that in Friday's ruling, Judge Boasberg "called the Trump administration's approval of the program, Kentucky HEALTH, 'arbitrary and capricious.'" He writes "that in approving Kentucky's work requirement proposal, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar 'never adequately considered whether Kentucky HEALTH would in fact help the state furnish medical assistance to its citizens, a central objective of Medicaid.'"

The Washington Post (6/29, Sun, Goldstein, 15.68M) reported that Boasberg's decision "sends the state's program, Kentucky HEALTH, back to the federal Department of Health and Human Services for further review." Bloomberg News (6/29, 4.46M) reported Trump's HHS department "'never adequately considered whether Kentucky Health would in fact help the state furnish medical assistance to its citizens, a central objective of Medicaid,' Boasberg wrote."

Reuters (6/29, Raymond) reported Kentucky "was the first of four states to receive approval from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to require that able-bodied Medicaid recipients work at least 80 hours a month or lose their benefits." Kentucky "said the judge had blocked the program on the 'narrow basis' that HHS failed to consider its impact on Medicaid coverage, and that the state would work with HHS to address that problem so the program could take effect." Adam Meier, secretary of Kentucky's health department, is quoted saying, "'We will have no choice but to make significant benefit reductions' without implementing the work requirements."

The Wall Street Journal (6/29, Armour, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) reported that Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Administrator Verma said, "We are conferring with the Department of Justice to chart a path forward." Verma added, "In the meantime, we will continue to

support innovative, state-driven policies that are designed to advance the objectives of the Medicaid program by improving health outcomes for thousands of low-income Americans.”

The AP (6/29, Beam, Alonso-Zaldivar) reported the national implications of Friday’s ruling “could take a while to sort out. Officials in Arkansas have already implemented similar work requirement rules there.” The drive “to expand Medicaid in GOP-led states had gotten a boost from the prospect of work requirements, which appeal to conservatives. In Virginia, work requirements are part of a compromise between Democratic Gov. Ralph Northam and Republican legislators to expand Medicaid.”

The Washington Examiner (6/29, Leonard, 340K) reported the requirements “would have gone into effect Sunday. Republican Gov. Matt Bevin had threatened to discontinue Medicaid expansion in the state, which covers more than 500,000 people, if the requirements were struck down.”

Additional coverage is provided by CNN (6/29, Luhby, 82.6M), Congressional Quarterly (6/29, Subscription Publication), Forbes (6/29, Japsen, 10.34M), Fortune (6/29, 3.91M), Healthcare Finance News (6/29, 93K), The Hill (6/29, Weixel, 2.71M), the Huffington Post (6/29, Young, 4.32M), Kaiser Health News (6/29), Modern Healthcare (6/29, Subscription Publication, 239K), the Louisville (KY) Courier-Journal (6/29, 419K), Politico (6/29, Pradhan, 3.51M), Vox (6/29, 1.66M), and the Detroit Free Press (6/29, Spangler, 1.21M).

Unaccompanied Alien Children

Suit Filed Against HHS Alleges “A Wide Range Of Abuses” Against Unaccompanied Minors.

USA Today (6/29, Gomez, 11.4M) reported that on Friday, several legal groups filed a lawsuit accusing HHS “of mistreating unaccompanied minors in its custody, ordering them to take psychotropic drugs without their relatives’ consent and making it overly difficult to reunite them with family.” The suit was filed on behalf of “five minors who allege a wide range of abuses at the hands of contractors who run shelters for Health and Human Services’ Office of Refugee Resettlement.” One of the children, “a 12-year-old boy from Guatemala who has been in custody since February, has allegedly been administered psychotropic drugs to treat depression that he developed while in custody.” The suit says “the boy refused to continue taking the medication because it hurt his stomach, which led shelter officials to transfer him to a psychiatric institution without consulting his adult sister, who had been trying to win his release.”

The Washington Post (6/29, Davis, 15.68M) reported that the lawsuit alleges the 12-year-old boy “went from being calm and cooperative to

showing signs of depression brought on by 'being kept from his family,'" which had crossed into the US illegally ahead of him. Leecia Welch, an attorney for the National Center for Youth Law, one of the groups that brought the case, said, "Basic due-process rights" are being "trampled" by the Trump Administration. She added that "parents of children are going through the ringer trying to get their kids out of these detention facilities."

The Wall Street Journal (6/29, Lazo, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) reported that the suit is seeking class-action status. The five children are from Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Mexico. It names HHS Secretary Alex Azar and ORR Director E. Scott Lloyd as defendants.

The Hill (6/30, Anapol, 2.71M) reported that the suit was "filed Friday in a federal court in California." The five children range in age from 12 to 17, and they all arrived in the US as unaccompanied minors. The suit "alleges that the minors have been held in 'jail-like' conditions and experienced 'cruel' practices, including being prescribed antidepressants, that may result in lifelong trauma and 'emotional harm.'"

NBC News (6/30, Mandell, 5.76M) and Newsweek (6/30, Hutzler, 2.18M) also covered the story.

House GOP Seeks Answers From Azar About ORR.

The Hill (6/29, Hellmann, 2.71M) reported that Republicans on the House Energy & Commerce Committee have sent a letter to HHS Secretary Alex Azar asking for answers about the Office of Refugee Resettlement. The article said the lawmakers "asked for answers to a series of questions about children in ORR custody, including: how many are in ORR custody as a result of being separated from their parents or families; does ORR have the resources to properly care for the high number of children being transferred to their custody; what steps is ORR taking to track and address issues of abuse within HHS funded facilities and what medications is ORR authorized to administer." The letter stated, "Given HHS' historical difficulties in properly caring for [the children], the committee believes that additional scrutiny of ORR is warranted at this time."

Fake Story About HHS Losing Immigrant Children Resulted In Discovery Of Separations At The Southern Border.

On its website, ABC News (6/30, Pearle, 1.85M) reported that the story about HHS losing almost 1,500 immigrant children was untrue, yet "it was enough to outrage politicians, stir up journalists and make the public ask questions. Chasing this misleading story...helped uncover a story that many found even more troubling. And this one was real." The article said that in April, "Steven Wagner, an official at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) who oversees programs that place unaccompanied minors with families, told a Senate committee that a department office 'was unable to determine with certainty the whereabouts of 1,475 unaccompanied alien children' who had been placed with sponsors living in the United States." In May,

Deputy HHS Secretary Eric Hargan “disputed what was becoming a widespread narrative, saying these children were not ‘lost’ but had simply been placed with friends and extended family members” who could not be reached. The piece added that while investigating this story, reporters uncovered the Trump Administration’s policy of separating immigrant families at the southern border.

HHS in the News

HHS’ Severino Speaks At National Right To Life Conference.

The Wichita (KS) Eagle (6/29, Burgess, 316K) reported Roger Severino, who directs the Department of Health and Human Services’ Office for Civil Rights, was the featured speaker at the National Right to Life convention Thursday, becoming the first HHS official “in recent memory” to speak at the nation’s largest anti-abortion organization. Severino said in his remarks, “Our president is fearless when it comes to life and conscience,” adding, “We’re just getting started.”

Several Mid-Level HHS Officials Reportedly Emulating Trump In Tweets.

Politico (6/29, Diamond, 3.51M) profiled several “midlevel political appointees at the Health and Human Services Department who have helped shape the agency’s communications strategy – even while taking a page out of President Donald Trump’s playbook” by emulating his “taunts and gibes” on Twitter. According to Politico, the behavior “suggest[s] that some officials feel empowered to mimic the president even while representing the government to millions of taxpayers and working alongside career federal employees.” The article added that the tweeting “also raises questions about whether any officials are violating the Hatch Act, which is intended to ban most federal personnel from bringing politics into the workplace.” The piece mentioned officials such as Gavin Smith, “an HHS staffer who identifies himself as deputy communications director,” Ximena Barreto, “a deputy communications director who worked on the Trump campaign,” and Jon Cordova, “the principal deputy assistant secretary for administration.”

CMS Looking For Chief Health Informatics Officer.

MedCity News (6/29, Dietsche) reported the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services “is seeking a chief health informatics officer, according to a job posting on USAjobs.gov.” The individual chosen for the role “will develop requirements and content for health-related information technology with an initial focus on improving innovation and

interoperability.”

CMS Releases Payment Data, Reveals Drug And Medical Device Company Contributions.

The Washington Examiner (6/29, King, 340K) reported that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services released its 2017 payment information on Friday. Data show drug and medical device companies provided “\$8.4 billion to doctors and teaching hospitals,” that year. According to the figures, “the biggest amount, \$4.7 billion, went to research. Coming in second was \$2.82 billion for general payments, which include items such as meals, travel to speaking events, and speaking fees.”

National Guard Soldiers May Have Sleep Problems After Returning Home From The Battlefield, Research Suggests.

Reuters (6/29, Weinstock) reported that research suggests “National Guard soldiers may be plagued with sleep problems when they return home from the battlefield.” The findings were published online in Sleep Health. Reuters added, “Michael Twery, director of the National Center on Sleep Disorders Research at the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute...told Reuters Health by phone that while the study was a

small one and needs to be replicated in larger groups of soldiers, it
'(lays) a foundation to help us design more definitive studies of sleep in
this population.'"

Federal Officials Say Romaine Lettuce-Linked E. Coli Outbreak Is Officially Over.

The Los Angeles Times (6/29, Millman, 4.03M) reported that Federal officials have said the E. coli outbreak tied to Yuma, AZ-grown romaine lettuce is officially over. The CDC has found no "new cases from the outbreak, which started in mid-March and infected people in 36 states." The Times reported, "Dirty irrigation canal water is expected to have caused the outbreak, Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Scott Gottlieb said Thursday, and officials are investigating how the bacteria got into the water." Meanwhile, the CDC reported "the last E. coli case from this outbreak June 6."

The New York Times (7/1, Jacobs, 19.33M) reports, "Samples of canal water in the Yuma area of Arizona were found to contain the same genetic strain of E. coli that caused the outbreak, Dr. Scott Gottlieb, commissioner of the federal Food and Drug Administration, said in a statement." Dr. Gottlieb said, "More work needs to be done to determine just how and why this strain of E. coli O157: H7 could have gotten into this body of water and how that led to contamination of romaine lettuce from multiple farms."

Emergency Departments Struggling Through Shortages Of Crucial Drugs.

The New York Times (7/1, Thomas, 19.33M) reports that emergency departments nationwide are struggling with shortages of "crucial drugs like morphine, which is used to ease the pain of injuries like broken bones, or diltiazem, a heart drug." The Times adds, "For years, drug shortages have created a behind-the-scenes scramble as pharmacists, doctors and nurses cobble together fixes that are often invisible to patients," but physicians "around the country say the latest shortages are more directly affecting patient care." A survey of emergency physicians in May by the American College of Emergency Physicians "found that 9 of 10 said they didn't have access to critical medicines, and nearly 4 in 10 said that patients had been negatively affected." FDA Commissioner Dr. Scott Gottlieb "acknowledged in an interview that while the agency has made progress, it has not solved the underlying problem," saying, "We are still in the position of trying to put a Band-Aid on a market that fundamentally hasn't changed."

Amazon's PillPack Deal Unlikely To Impact Drug Costs, Analysts Say.

The Wall Street Journal (6/29, Rockoff, Walker, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) reported that Amazon's deal to purchase PillPack may make filling prescriptions more convenient, but is unlikely to address

prescription drug costs, according to industry experts. Those experts suggested that Amazon may be able to negotiate to offer generic versions of medications, but that the main issue with US drug spending is rising cost driven by high-priced biotech therapies, which often must be injected or infused, and which retail pharmacies don't dispense. However, the deal threatens to shift market share from the 64,500 US retail pharmacies, and some analysts suggest Amazon could be looking to take over the role of pharmacy-benefit managers, which currently negotiate drug discounts for insurers and employers.


Meanwhile, CNBC (6/29, Lovelace, 4.81M) reported, "FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb says Amazon's new push into health care is just fine because anything that makes much needed products, like pharmaceuticals, more accessible to consumers and lowers costs is a positive." In a June 29 interview with CNBC's "Squawk Box," Gottlieb said, "Disruptive competition is a good thing."

First Cannabis-Based Prescription Drug Approved By FDA Marks "Watershed" Moment, Industry Members Say.

Bloomberg News (6/29, Buckley, 4.46M) reported GW Pharmaceuticals has received FDA approval for its medical marijuana treatment "Epidiolex, a prescription drug for children with severe epilepsy," which has been "genetically modified to remove the psychoactive properties." As the "first prescription medicine derived from cannabis permitted to be sold in the U.S.," the drug's approval has been heralded by some industry members as "a watershed event" that the piece said "should help alleviate skepticism among some physicians about the plant's

medical uses.”

FDA Commissioner Comments On Efforts To Stem Online Opioid Sales.

CNBC’s Squawk Box  Video (6/29, 85K) reported on the FDA’s summit with Facebook, Google, Twitter, and other Internet companies seeking their help in cracking down on online opioid sales. In an interview, FDA Commissioner Dr. Scott Gottlieb said, “In 2015, there was data that came out that showed \$15 million of online sales, but we’re seeing more and more of the sales being shifted to the online I think as we start to reduce lawful prescribing, so a lot of the medical – a lot of the addiction was people got medically addicted as we see doctors start to prescribe fewer opioids, we’re fearful that more and more of the new addiction is going to shift to illicit sources, and a lot of those sales are taking place online.” Gottlieb characterized big Internet companies as having “been helpful” and said that “we’ve been working with them for some period of time now.”

FDA Report Suggests Ways To Improve Its Hiring Process.

Congressional Quarterly (6/29, Siddons, Subscription Publication) reported that the FDA issued a new report that showed that the agency

"sees ways that its ability to hire qualified staff could be improved, even after Congress granted it new hiring authorities at the end of 2016." The report noted that the new authorities it was granted "included the ability to offer higher salaries for some positions." The report largely "focuses on ways that the FDA has been implementing new hire authorities, including which positions it is designating for higher pay scales and how it has sped up its hiring process in several areas."

FDA Policy Limiting Blood Donations From Gay Men Draws Scrutiny.

The Kansas City (MO) Star (6/29, Randle, 636K) reported an FDA policy from 1983 requiring blood banks "to prohibit men who have sex with men from donating blood, blood components or plasma" has become "a point of contention for many in the LGBT community who viewed it as archaic and stigmatizing in a time when HIV is less of a threat." The FDA in 2015 "amended its ban to a '12 month deferment' policy, allowing men to donate blood as long as they haven't had sex with other men for the past year," but skeptics continue to argue against it. The piece adds that FDA spokeswoman Megan McSeveney said the agency is "fully committed in its actions to facilitate change" and is seeking new means to evaluate blood donors.

FDA Warns Pfizer Over "Misleading" Consumer Video.

STAT Plus (6/29, Silverman, Subscription Publication, 27K) reported the Food and Drug Administration “scolded” Pfizer “over a consumer video that created a ‘misleading impression’ of the Estring vaginal ring because there was no risk information.” In a June 19 letter, the FDA “argued the video ‘misleadingly suggests that patients will experience similar results’” as the person depicted in the video, and the FDA “complained this was ‘especially concerning from a public health perspective’ because Estring product labeling mentions several serious, life-threatening risks, including two forms of cancer.”

Op-Ed Touts FDA Allowance Of Off-Label Healthcare Economic Discussions.

In STAT (6/29, 27K) “First Opinion,” John Osborn, a senior advisor with Hogan Lovells and a visiting scholar at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and Seth Ray, a senior counsel with O’Melveny & Myers, touted the Trump Administration’s issuance of “final guidance that allows drug companies and device makers to provide health care economic and other supporting information to payers and formulary committees, even if the information is outside of the FDA approved labeling and was not submitted to the agency in the course of product approval.” They suggested that this development “raises the question of whether the agency will take steps to allow companies to provide truthful off-label information to physicians and patients in other contexts.” They noted that “in April, FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb signaled that an expanded safe harbor was coming soon that would provide a ‘more robust framework’ to allow companies to discuss the value proposition and health economic benefits of off-label uses.”

Maple Syrup Producers, Beekeepers Oppose FDA's "Added Sugars" Label.

The AP (7/1) reports that the FDA's "added sugars" labeling is being opposed by maple syrup producers and beekeepers. The agency "has received more than 3,000 comments on its proposal, most of which are from honey and maple syrup producers, the Wisconsin Public Radio reported." The AP reports, "The FDA said that it's looking forward to 'working with stakeholders to devise a sensible solution,' but the "agency said it acknowledges that the feedback from producers indicates that their proposal 'does not provide the clarity that the FDA intended.'"

CDC Director Changes Stance On Use Of Condoms To Prevent STDs.

The AP (6/29, Stobbe) reported that CDC Director Dr. Robert Redfield Jr. "once opposed condoms and needle exchange programs as ways to stop the spread of sexually transmitted diseases." But this week, he said during an interview that "his views have changed." He told the AP that "it has become clear to him that condoms and needle exchanges work as part of comprehensive programs to stop the spread of certain

infectious diseases." Redfield was quoted as saying, "One thing I can commit to is CDC is not an opinion organization. It's a science-based, data-driven organization." Speaking about the AIDS epidemic, he added, "We do have the tools to end this epidemic. Let's use them."

CDC Map Illustrates Incidence Of Pediatric Cancer In Different US Regions.

On its website, NBC News (6/29, 5.76M) reported a new CDC map of cancers in the US indicates pediatric "cancer rates are the highest in the Northeast and lowest in the South," that leukemia "is more common in the western states," and "rates of pediatric lymphoma and brain cancer are higher in the Northeast." Lead report author CDC epidemiologist Dr. David Siegel wrote, "Variation in childhood cancer incidence might be related to differences in exposures to carcinogenic chemicals (e.g., air pollution, secondhand smoke, food, or drinking water) or radiation." The piece added, "there might be genetic variations in different populations. Inherited genetics account for about 5 percent of all childhood cancer, the National Cancer Institute says." The NCI was quoted as saying that in adults, certain "gene mutations reflect the cumulative effects of aging and long-term exposure to cancer-causing substances."

Health Exec (6/29, Leider) reported the CDC study sourced "data for 2003-2014 from the National Program of Cancer Registries and the National Cancer Institute's Surveillance," a period during which "171,432 cases of pediatric cancer were identified – an incidence rate of 173.7 cases per one million children."

House Legislators Seek More Transparency From FNIH Concerning Donors.

Science Magazine (6/29, Mervis, 441K) reported a House appropriations subcommittee is concerned that the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health (FNIH) may not be adhering to funding disclosure rules dictated by the Public Health Service Act (PHSA). Science said the House report specifically addressed identifying donors "who have attached strings to their gift by labeling them as 'anonymous.'" However, FNIH senior vice president of research partnerships David Wholley said, "We have the responsibility...to do these partnerships that support the NIH mission. ... And we have always complied with the law." FNIH development office head Julie Wolf-Rodda said, "The lion's share of anonymous gifts are from a relative of someone who was treated at the NIH Clinical Center...and doesn't want their name listed in the annual report." The piece noted that "NIH Director Francis Collins canceled a \$100-million study on the effects of moderate alcohol drinking" following "an investigation found NIH staff had improperly solicited industry directly and shaped the study to satisfy industry interests."

NCI Research Funding Priorities Following Budget Increases Outlined.

In a paywalled piece, the [Cancer Letter](#) (6/29, Ong) reported on the NCI's funding priorities after receiving "a \$147 million increase to the Research Grant Project pool," \$60 million for "targeted research opportunities," "a \$20 million increase for centers and SPOREs," and "\$10 million for the National Clinical Trials Network and the NCI Community Oncology Research Program." With its "\$275 million increase over fiscal 2017 levels," NCI has an enacted 2018 budget of \$5.66 billion. The piece quoted NCI Director Ned Sharpless as saying, "there was about almost a \$40 million increase in taps, benefits, and salaries. ... These are things that the NCI has to experience. There's an increase to our [Small Business Innovation Research program] funding, it's a fixed grade of our external budget."

NCI Establishes National Clinical Trials Network Navigator To Augment Access To Cancer Trial Specimens, Data.

[HemOnc Today](#) (6/29, Mishkin, 98K) reported the NCI recently established the National Clinical Trials Network (NCTN) Navigator which aims "to improve the research community's access to specimens and data collected from cancer treatment trials" by providing researchers with "access to specimens donated by adults who participated in published NCI-sponsored phase 3 cancer trials." The piece included an interview with Grace Mishkin, MPH, public health analyst at NCI, who explained, "This initiative is designed to align with the goals of NCTN by taking a more network-wide centralized approach to making the specimens from these trials more available to the wider research community," adding, "Ultimately, the goal is to have studies come through the navigator process and evaluate biomarkers that can hopefully be used in future clinical trials."

NIDOC Study Indicates Partially-Restored Hearing In Mouse Model Of Inherited Deafness.

The Beckley (WV) Register-Herald (7/1, Holdren, 59K) reports a new study conducted by the National Institutes of Health's National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, the University of Iowa, and Iowa City indicates new understandings of "the molecular mechanism in a form of deafness, DFNA27," and "focused on a small-molecule drug – the first to preserve hearing in a mouse model of an inherited form of progressive human deafness." Study co-author Thomas B. Friedman, PhD, chief of the Laboratory of Human Molecular Genetics at the NIDCD, explained, "We were able to partially restore hearing, especially at lower frequencies, and save some sensory hair cells." Andrew J. Griffith, scientific director of the NIDCD, said that by following the genetic indicators, "We find novel and unexpected pathways that can, in cases such as this one, uncover unexpected potential treatment strategies in humans."

Senate Committee Considers Additional \$2 Billion For NIH In 2019.

In a paywalled piece, the Cancer Letter (6/29, Williams, Ong) reported the Senate Committee on Appropriations submitted a fiscal 2019

spending bill last week which would increase NIH funding by \$2 billion, giving it \$39.1 billion. If the measure is enacted, "federally-funded biomedical research would get its fourth consecutive increase," and \$190 million in new money of the total allocation would "trickle down to NCI." The piece added that the House similarly drafted a bill which "proposes a \$1.25 billion increase for NIH, bringing the total to \$38.3 billion."

NIH Recommends Strategies For Older Adults To Avoid Hypothermia In Summer Heat.

The [Beckley \(WV\) Register-Herald](#) (6/29, Holdren, Nelson, 59K) reported, "The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is encouraging older adults to take certain precautions this summer to avoid hyperthermia," recommending that older adults "stay indoors on particularly hot and humid days." The NIH also advises staying hydrated, wearing light-colored and loose-fitting clothes, keeping homes and community centers cool, and visiting air-conditioned locations.

Johns Hopkins Tops List Of Leading NIH Grant Recipients In Baltimore Area.

The [Baltimore Business Journal](#) (6/29, Sieron, Subscription Publication,

823K) reported Johns Hopkins University again leads the list of top NIH grant recipients in Greater Baltimore for 2017 "with a total grant value of \$651.8 million last year." The other leading grant recipients include the University of Maryland, Baltimore, the Kennedy Krieger Institute, the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, and Profectus BioSciences Inc.

Opioid Crisis

Opioid Deaths In Missouri Still On The Rise, But Growth Rate Slowing Down.

The AP (7/1) reports that while opioid related deaths "continue to increase in Missouri, the growth rate is slowing down, according to a new report." The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services "found that there was a 4.7 percent increase in opioid deaths from 2016 to 2017, the Columbia Missourian reported." That rate "is much lower than the 35 percent spike seen from 2015 to 2016."

Ohio Auditor's Report Shows Impact Of Opioids On Medicaid.

The AP (7/1) reports that a state auditor's report "looking at the impact of the opioid crisis on state Medicaid spending shows the number of Ohio Medicaid recipients with an opioid-related diagnosis quadrupling from 2010 to 2016." The report "recently released by Ohio Auditor Dave Yost shows the number of Ohio Medicaid recipients with an opioid-related diagnosis climbed 430 percent between 2010 and 2016."

New Research Shows How Opioids Are Impacting The Workforce In Kentucky.

The AP (6/30) reported that new research shows how opioids are affecting the workforce in Kentucky. The research shows "that the state's high use of painkilling drugs called opioids appears to have reduced the labor pool." In a paper "published by the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, economists Dionissi Aliprantis and Mark E. Schweitzer estimated that participation in the labor force by men in their prime working years – ages 24 to 54 – was 4.6 percent less on average in counties with high rates of opioid prescribing than in counties with low prescribing rates."

Georgia Will Require Doctors To Check Database Before Prescribing Opioids.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution (6/29, 1.09M) reported that starting July 1, writing a prescription for opioid pain medications in Georgia "will require an extra step...that lawmakers hope may push health care professionals to make better prescribing decisions." A state law that was passed last year "mandates that doctors, dentists and other prescribers check a database to determine what prescriptions patients have recently filled before doling out certain drugs, including opioid painkillers and benzodiazepines such as Xanax."

Arizona County Joins Opioid Manufacturer Lawsuit.

The Arizona Republic (6/30, Wagner, 1.21M) reported that cities and counties across the US "have joined a nationwide lawsuit against corporations that make and distribute opioids, seeking to recoup tax dollars spent fighting America's painkiller-addiction epidemic." Cochise County in Arizona "became the latest to file suit this week, joining at least 1,500 local, state and tribal governments that in the past year have filed federal court complaints against Purdue Pharma LP, the manufacturer of OxyContin, and other companies."

Pennsylvania Law Aims To Protect Newborns Affected By Opioid Addiction.

The Philadelphia Inquirer (6/29, McCullough, 1.07M) reported the Pennsylvania legislature last week passed a bill “that will dramatically change the rules for safeguarding newborns who go home from the hospital with mothers battling addiction.” The overhaul, “effective in October, says any newborn ‘affected’ by the mother’s drug use during pregnancy must be reported by the hospital to the county’s child protective agency, which must ‘immediately’ assess whether protective custody is needed. The agency has to develop a ‘plan of safe care’ for babies who go home.”

Innovative Program At Kentucky Jail Provides In-House Rehab For Inmates.

Fox News (7/1, Kesten, 16.38M) reports that a jail in Kenton County, Kentucky started “an innovative pilot program” back in 2015 that provides in-house rehab for inmates. Today, the program “is so successful that it has a running waitlist,” and “the vast majority of men sign themselves up.” That rehab program, “called Unit 104, houses 70 men,” who “have access to alcoholics and narcotics anonymous meetings, along with a daily schedule of classes to prepare for the G.E.D. or future job interviews.”

Nashville Family Loses Three Loved Ones “To Drugs’ Grip.”

The Tennessean (7/1, Wadhwani, 513K) reports that a family in Nashville has lost three loved ones in drug-related accidents since 2013. Mickey and Tina Baltz’s son died in a car accident in 2013 when former 3 Doors Down bassist – having the opioid oxycodone and the muscle relaxant alprazolam in his system – clipped his car on the interstate. Then in 2016, their daughter’s former boyfriend, Ralph Hardin, 29, “was fatally shot with his own gun in a room at the Red Roof Inn, where – the Baltzes say – he had gone to confront” the Baltz’s daughter’s drug dealer. And earlier this year, their daughter, Heather Baltz, died “of a heart infection doctors believe originated with a contaminated needle used to shoot heroin. She had turned to heroin after running out of pain pills prescribed for gallbladder surgery in 2014.”

Media Collaborates To Share Solutions To Opioid Crisis.

The AP (6/28, De Groot) reported more than 50 print, digital, and broadcast news organizations “are casting a spotlight on the diverse and sometimes out-of-the-ordinary tactics being used to combat the devastating effects of the opioids crisis across Pennsylvania, from the smallest towns to the biggest cities.” One goal of the media collaboration was “to make sure communities in every part of the state are aware of strategies, innovations and community efforts that are helping to alleviate the crisis, or at least show promise.”

Police Using Databases To Crack Down On Opioid Abuse.


Politico (6/29, Tahir, 3.51M) reported, "Bolstered by harsh law-and-order rhetoric from President Donald Trump and his aides, police around the country are using electronic databases to unleash a vast crackdown on opioid abusers and the allegedly crooked doctors who sustain them." The databases are helping "to reduce opioid prescriptions, which have fallen by nearly a third since 2011."

Metrohealth Cuts Opioid Prescriptions By 3 Million.

The Cleveland Plain Dealer (6/29, 1.03M) reported the MetroHealth System "is looking internally to strike the next blow in Ohio's battle against the opioid epidemic." MetroHealth "cut the number of opioid pills prescribed by 3 million, Dr. Akram Boutros, president and CEO of MetroHealth, announced Friday during MetroHealth's annual stakeholders meeting at the Huntington Convention Center of Cleveland." During the annual meeting, Boutros "also told the crowd of 700 about a new initiative to address community trauma and shared updated plans for a new 11-story, 270-bed 'hospital in a park' on its main campus off West 25th Street."

Modern Healthcare (6/29, Johnson, Subscription Publication, 239K) reported the efforts “resulted in 33% fewer opioid prescriptions compared with the previous 18 months.” That includes “a 62% drop in prescriptions for acute pain and a 25% cut in prescriptions for chronic pain.”

NBC Analysis: France Seems To Have Solution To Its Own Opioid Crisis.

NBC Nightly News  Video (7/1, story 9, 3:10, Jackson, 8.26M) reported that France appears to have found a way to “dramatically cut down on the number of people who die from overdosing” on opioids. France, which went through its “own opioid epidemic” in the 1980s and 1990s, began allowing all general practitioners to prescribe buprenorphine in the mid-1990s. In four years, “overdose deaths dropped by 79 percent, and even now, 64 percent of heroin and other opioid substance abusers are on the treatment. Under France’s universal health system, it’s free.” NBC’s Dr. John Torres said buprenorphine “works and saves lives” but isn’t being used in the US because it’s not covered in all states, and doctors who would prescribe it would need “special training.”

Mental Illness

Student Groups On College Campuses May Improve Access To Mental Health Resources, Study Suggests.

The [Huffington Post](#) (6/30, Pajer, 4.32M) reported that some college students “are taking action” to improve access to mental healthcare and “address the culture that makes their peers reluctant to seek help.” The article said some students “have formed clubs and support groups,” while “others educate fellow students about mental health offerings on campus.” A new [study](#) which examines such groups across 12 California schools found that “students’ efforts are working,” and said that the presence of these groups on campus “was found to foster an increase in general knowledge and positive attitudes about mental health,” according to the article.

Healthcare Fraud

Tennessee CEO Indicted In \$2.5 Million Medicare Fraud Case.

The Tennessean (6/29, Kelman, 513K) reported in continuing coverage about a "nationwide health care fraud takedown" that "led to hundreds of arrests in a host of unconnected cases across the nation." The article said "Brenda Montgomery, 70, of Camden, the owner of CCC Medical, Inc., has been charged with conspiracy and bribery, according to a federal indictment that was unsealed Thursday." The Tennessee company "sold knee, wrist and back braces." According to the piece, "Montgomery was identified as [the] leader of the alleged Tennessee bribery conspiracy, which prosecutors say spanned six years before being discovered in January. Federal prosecutors also charged four others: Beau Jones, 50, of Loudon; and Sarah Dacus, 36; Greg Lawson, 42; and Josh Wiley, 35; all of Knoxville."

Dallas Healthcare Center Service Provider Charged In \$2.5 Million Medicare Fraud Scheme.

The Dallas Morning News (6/29, Coello, Reporter, 1.05M) reported that the operator of a Dallas healthcare practice was arrested Thursday and "faces a fraud charge after a record-breaking enforcement action by the Medicare Fraud Strike Force." A federal complaint alleges that Nehaj Rizvi, 29, who operated Life Spring Housecall Physicians, "used a physician's signature stamp to sign certifications and orders for supposedly homebound patients who did not actually need the endorsed

treatments,” according to the article. Life Spring distributed physician orders and certifications “to over 100 home health agencies, allowing them to charge Medicare about \$2.5 million in false billings, according to the complaint.”

Prescription Drug Pricing

Epilepsy Drug’s Price Increase Highlighted.

CNN (6/29, Drash, For, 82.6M) highlighted the case of Trevor Foltz, a teen who lives with infantile spasms, a rare form of epilepsy. The treatment needed for his survival, Acthar (repository corticotropin), increased in price from \$1,600 per dose to “more than \$23,000,” and his family “wrestled with their insurance” to get him treated “at a cost of more than \$125,000.” The family had to fight for another round of treatment more than a year later, meaning another cost of \$125,000. The drug, first invented in the 1930s, cost \$40 per vial back in 2001 and now costs \$39,000 per vial. Ultimately, the steep price hike “resulted in a \$100 million settlement between the government and the drugmaker – as well as revelations that Medicare has spent nearly \$2 billion covering Acthar prescriptions for seniors while the drugmaker paid millions to prescribing doctors.”

Op-Ed: “American Patients First” Plan Neglects Key Elements Necessary To Reduce Drug Costs.

Hagop Kantarjian, MD, health policy fellow at Rice University’s Baker Institute for Public Policy, and Vivian Ho, PhD, Baker Institute chair in health economics and director at the Center for Health and Biosciences, write in an op-ed for The Hill (7/1, 2.71M) that the Trump Administration “should reconsider thoughtfully” the “American Patients First” drug pricing proposal released in May by the Department of Health and Human Services because it “is unlikely” the plan will yield the changes necessary to cut drug costs. According to the authors, a successful plan “must address controlling drug prices through reducing the launch price of new drugs; prohibiting unjustified annual increases of prices, and protecting patients from excessive out-of-pocket expenses.” However, they conclude, the “‘American Patients First’ road map ignores all three.”

Editorial: More Policies Requiring Transparency Of PBMs Are Necessary To Combat Drug Prices.

In an editorial, the Columbus (OH) Dispatch (7/1, 399K) argues for increased transparency regarding the role of pharmacy benefit

managers (PBMs) play in drug pricing. The Dispatch says PBMs “were once hailed as an answer to provide needed cost controls through claims management for insurers and payers,” but now “have been revealed as lining their pockets” in their contracts with prescription-drug manufacturers and payers. The editorial applauds the implementation of state contracts requiring transparency about pricing from “two of the nation’s largest PBMs, CVS Caremark and Optum Rx,” which took effect Sunday, and calls for “Medicaid administrators, legislators, office holders and would-be office holders...[to] continue demanding more transparency until we can all be assured that consumers and taxpayers are being treated fairly.”

Op-Ed Criticizes Pharmacy Benefit Managers.

In an op-ed in STAT (6/29, 27K), Scott Knoer, PharmD, the chief pharmacy officer of the Cleveland Clinic, argued that pharmacy benefit managers engage in “financial shenanigans” rather than helping “control costs for payers and lower out-of-pocket costs for plan members.” Knoer contended that PBMs have been able to do this for so long because they “closely guard their complicated processes to avoid scrutiny, and require pharmacies to sign confidential agreements that shield them from visibility.” And, since just three PBMs “control 73 percent of the market,” there are often “abuses” of the system. Knoer detailed five ways in which PBMs “make their unparalleled high profits” – processing of claims, negotiation of rebates, the spread, or “difference between what a pharmacy benefit manager collects from the payer (such as Medicaid) for medications and the amount it pays the pharmacy that dispenses it,” as well as by “forcing patients to use specific pharmacies,” and via remuneration fees.

Op-Ed: State, Federal Laws Should Empower Pharmacists To Help Manage Drug Costs.

In an op-ed in The Hill (6/29, 2.71M), Lucinda L. Maine, PhD, RPh, the Executive Vice President and CEO of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, argued that “pharmacists are in a good position to assist” with the challenges of medication costs, “if state and federal laws would allow.” She pointed out that when “patients elect not to fill a prescription or use only a few doses without finishing the course,” this can increase healthcare costs. She pointed out that “the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy has long advocated for legislative and regulatory changes to professional practice that would help some 200 million Americans better manage their chronic diseases so that more lives could be saved.” Among the changes she suggested is “increasing public access to and coverage for pharmacists’ medication management services.”

Health Care & Insurance Reform

Sen. Collins Says She Will Oppose Supreme Court Pick Who Shows “Hostility” To Roe V. Wade.

The Washington Post (7/1, Long, 15.68M) reports Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME) is a “key swing vote on President Trump’s next Supreme Court pick” and she said she will not support “any judge who would overturn Roe v. Wade.” Collins said Sunday on CNN’s State of the Union, “I would not support a nominee who demonstrated hostility to Roe v. Wade.”

The New York Times (7/1, Fandos, Cochrane, 19.33M) reports that Sen. Collins is “among the few remaining voices of centrism in the Republican Party,” and “is one of two Republican senators who have supported abortion rights and, in the past, have shown themselves willing to break with their party.”

The AP (7/1, Yen, Thomas) reports Sen. Collins explained that any judge with such hostility to precedent “would not be acceptable to me because that would indicate an activist agenda.” The AP adds, “Republicans hold a narrow 51-49 majority in the Senate, and it’s even closer because of the absence of ailing Sen. John McCain of Arizona.”

CNN (7/1, Watkins, 82.6M) reports Collins “said when she met with President Donald Trump to discuss the vacancy created by the retirement of Justice Anthony Kennedy, she encouraged Trump ‘to broaden his list beyond’ his standing list of 25 potential choices.” She said, “The President really was soliciting my views on the type of

nominee that I was looking for,” adding, “I emphasized that I wanted a nominee who would respect precedent, a fundamental tenet of our judicial system.” Collins also said, “I want a judge who will apply the law to the facts of the case with fidelity to the Constitution” and “Roe v. Wade is a constitutional right that is well established, and no less an authority than Chief Justice Roberts said that repeatedly at his confirmation hearing.”

Bloomberg News (7/1, Niquette, Condon, 4.46M) reports Collins said of the president’s process, “I got the feeling that he was still deliberating and had not yet reached a decision, and that this was genuine outreach on his part.” She added, “There are people on that list whom I could not support.”

The Washington Examiner (7/1, Ayers, 340K) reports Sen. Collins pointed out that Justice Neil Gorsuch would likely not overturn Roe v. Wade. She explained, “I had a very long discussion with Justice Gorsuch in my office and he pointed out to me that he [is] the co-author of a whole book on precedent,” adding, “So someone who devotes that much time to writing a book on precedent, I think, understands how important a principle that is in our judicial system.”

Also reporting are Reuters (7/1, Dunsmuir), the Washington Times (7/1, Richardson, 460K) and Politico (7/1, Kullgren, 3.51M).

Most Americans Do Not Want To Overturn Roe V. Wade, Poll Says.

Congressional Quarterly (6/29, Raman, Subscription Publication)

reported according to a survey released Friday, only 29 percent of Americans support overturning Roe v. Wade. The poll was conducted before Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy announced he was retiring. Among Republicans, 53 percent want the case overturned, while 81 percent of Democrats and 73 percent of independents do not.

The Hill (6/29, Hellmann, 2.71M) reported, "Sixty-eight percent of women and 65 percent of men said they want the decision to remain the law of the land." The poll was from the Kaiser Family Foundation. The Hill added, "Forty-percent of adults said they are more likely to vote for a candidate who supports access to abortion services, while 30 percent said a candidate who supports abortion restrictions is more likely to get their vote."

Politico (6/29, Diamond, 3.51M) reported the poll found 67 percent of Americans "oppose rolling back constitutional protections for access to abortion." The poll also showed that "67 percent of Democrats oppose the Trump administration's proposal to prohibit federal funding from going to organizations that provide abortion services, while Republicans are nearly split" with 46 percent in support and 48 in opposition.

The Washington Examiner (6/29, Leonard, 340K) also reports.

Trump Judicial Adviser Claims None Of Top Supreme Court Candidates Have A "Clear Position" On Roe V. Wade.

The Washington Examiner (7/1, Williams, 340K) reports Leonard Leo, a "top Trump judicial adviser" and vice president of the Federalist Society,

"none of the reportedly top individuals on the administration's shortlist of candidates to replace retiring Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy have a clear position on whether to overturn" the Roe v. Wade holding. Leo said, "Prospective nominees like Brett Kavanaugh, and Amy Barrett, and Raymond Kethledge, and Tom Hardiman are people who have not specifically said they oppose Roe v. Wade, and their writings and their work show that they are very fair." He added, "They look at arguments from both sides all the time and they analyze them very carefully, and when they take a position, they then say these are what the other people have said about this and here's why I don't agree with them."

Advocacy Groups Plan To Spend Millions On Supreme Court Nomination Battle.

NPR (7/1, Overby, 3.55M) reports both sides of the upcoming battle over President Trump's nomination to the Supreme Court are "expected to spend tens of millions of dollars." NPR adds, "the Judicial Crisis Network, which pledged \$10 million to win confirmation for Justice Neil Gorsuch last year, is gearing up again" and so are "plenty of other groups," including "the Koch brothers' Americans for Prosperity, which said it's 'prepared to commit seven figures,' the anti-abortion Susan B. Anthony Fund, Heritage Action and others." The article says, "Some liberal groups say this won't be like other confirmation fights, and they hope to put the future of the Affordable Care Act, or Obamacare, at the center."

Opinion: Ending Abortion Is The Beginning, Not The End.

Kimberly Ross wrote in the Washington Examiner (6/29, Ross, 340K) that "Abortion has reached a near-sacramental status in the Left's

political religion” and “to encroach upon this holy ground is tantamount to war.” Ross added, “One day, we hope to look back on abortion as we now do slavery and wonder how a nation built on freedom ever permitted and celebrated such a daily horror.” She concluded, “While there may be a potential victory on the horizon, pro-lifers should not trick themselves into believing such a thing means our mission is accomplished.”

Opinion: Antiabortion Groups Are “Laying Low” About Overturning Roe.

Jennifer Rubin wrote in the Washington Post (6/29, 15.68M) in its “Right Turn” blog that “pro-life activists are trying to lay low” about being “on the brink of achieving their dream of a 5-4 court ready to reverse Roe v. Wade.” Rubin criticized their “different tune” and says, “pro-life activists should have the power of their convictions,” noting, “they have spent their lives saying they want to eradicate abortion and that the American people were with them. Now is the time to have that fight.”

Opinion: People Need To Mobilize Against Trump’s Supreme Court Pick.

EJ Dionne Jr. writes in the Washington Post (7/1, Dionne, 15.68M) that Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) was correct when she called the replacement of Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy the “fight of our lives.” Dionne says, “There is no choice but to mobilize.” He adds, “The future of abortion rights is central to the coming battle. But so are civil rights, corporate power and our democratic capacity to correct social injustices.”

Medical Advances Have Contributed To Plunging Abortion Rates.

The New York Times (7/1, A1, Belluck, Hoffman, 19.33M) reports on its front page that "America even without legal abortion would be very different from America before abortion was legal." The article explains, "a full-fledged return to an era of back-alley, coat-hanger abortions seems improbable" because "a burst of scientific innovation has produced more effective, simpler and safer ways to prevent pregnancies and to stop them after conception – advances that have contributed to an abortion rate that has already plunged by half since the 1980s."

Iowa Supreme Court Rules Against 72-Hour Abortion Waiting Period.

The AP (6/29, Pitt) reported the Iowa Supreme Court on Friday ruled 5-2 that a state law requiring a 72-hour waiting period for abortions is unconstitutional, saying that "autonomy and dominion over one's body go to the very heart of what it means to be free." The court determined the restriction was not "narrowly tailored to serve a compelling interest of the state."

Reuters (6/29, Goldberg) reported that there is a "separate challenge pending" over another provision of the law "that outlaws abortion after

a fetal heartbeat is detected.”

Also reporting were The Hill (6/29, Wise, 2.71M) and the Washington Examiner (6/29, King, 340K).

Opinion: Women Must Speak Up To Defend Abortion Rights.

Cindi Leive, former editor in chief of Glamour and Self, wrote in the New York Times (6/30, 19.33M) that as Justice Anthony Kennedy, “whose vote has helped protect abortion rights over his 30 years on the Supreme Court, prepares to retire, we are faced with the very real prospect of a court that would overturn Roe, at a time when states across the country are already restricting abortion rights.” Leive emphasized the importance of women who have had an abortion sharing their stories if they feel comfortable with doing so because “silence...allows menacing myths about abortion to thrive.” Leive said the right to abortion “is under greater threat than it has been in my adult lifetime,” and concluded that “just as women decades ago shared their stories en masse in an effort to change inhumane laws, it’s time for those of us who feel we can share to do so once again.”

New Mexico Democrats Push To Repeal State Abortion Law.

The Albuquerque (NM) Journal (6/29, McKay, 215K) reported that Democratic lawmakers in New Mexico are renewing efforts to repeal a state law that makes it a crime for an abortion provider to end a women's pregnancy, except in narrow circumstances. The push comes "in part because the retirement of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy will allow President Donald Trump to nominate his successor," according to the article.

Supreme Court Ruling Raises Doubts About Illinois Abortion Law.

The Chicago Tribune (7/1, Lourgou, 2.37M) reports the Supreme Court's recent decision to back anti-abortion pregnancy centers is raising doubts about an Illinois law that says "medical providers must inform patients about all available medical options, including abortion and contraception, even if the nurse or physician has faith-based or moral objections."

Some States Taking Action To Support ACA.

The Washington Post (7/1, Goldstein, 15.68M) reports on efforts by state governments to buttress the protections of the Affordable Care Act

against efforts by the federal government to “erode the ACA.” The Post discusses individual mandate requirements passed in New Jersey, Vermont, and DC, as well as state efforts to erect “barriers against rules the Trump administration is writing to promote short-term health plans.” The Post explains how “taken together, the moves mean the nation is starting to revert to the insurance landscape of a decade ago — a hodgepodge that created the political pressures that culminated in the sweeping 2010 law” — where each state had different insurance requirements.

House Vote To Repeal Medical Device Tax May Bolster Vulnerable GOP Lawmaker.

The Hill (7/1, Sullivan, 2.71M) reports that the House is planning to vote this month on legislation that would repeal the Affordable Care Act’s medical device tax, which would “satisfy industry leaders and boost the reelection prospects for the bill’s sponsor,” Rep. Erik Paulsen (R-MN), whose seat is “vulnerable.” Several device makers are based in Paulsen’s district. Repealing the tax is “absolutely popular in this district,” according to Larry Jacobs, a political science professor at the University of Minnesota.

Sen. Durbin Says Trump Seeking Court Nominee Who Will Overturn Roe, Affordable Care Act.

The Washington Times (7/1, Richardson, 460K) reports Senate Minority Whip Dick Durbin said President Trump is seeking to nominate a justice to the Supreme Court who will overturn Roe v. Wade and the Affordable Care Act. Durbin said, "The president is looking for someone who will overturn Roe versus Wade. ... But even equally important, he's looking for someone on the court who will make sure that they rule that the Affordable Care Act's protection of those with preexisting conditions is unconstitutional."

Trump Administration Proposes Cuts To ACA Navigators.

The Hill (6/29, Sullivan, 2.71M) reported the Trump Administration has proposed cutting the funding for Affordable Care Act navigators from \$36 million last year to \$10 million this year. The Administration cut the funding from \$63 million to \$36 million in 2017. While a spokeswoman for the Department of Health and Human Services "did not respond to a request for comment," but sources "say that proposal now could be walked back, and it is possible funding could remain the same as last year, but it is unclear where the final number will end up."

Health Insurers Offering ACA Plans In More States, But At Higher Premiums.

The Washington Examiner (7/2, Leonard, 340K) reports that even though health insurers are planning to expand their participation under the Affordable Care Act, the "trend is coming at the expense of higher premiums for certain customers." The "entrance by insurers into Obamacare is a reversal from years of exits." The Examiner reports that Oscar Health is expanding into three new states; Centene "has filed in North Carolina and Tennessee;" and Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield, Molina, and Medica are also adding states.

Obama Told Trump To Take Credit For ACA.

The Hill (6/29, Sullivan, 2.71M) reported former President Barack Obama revealed Thursday that he told President Trump, "Just change the name and claim that you made these wonderful changes and I would be like, 'You go.'" Obama added, "Because I didn't have pride of authorship, I just wanted people to have health care."

Newsweek (6/29, Touchberry, 2.18M) reports that "Obama reiterated Thursday that he did not take up the issue of health care because he wanted to preserve his legacy or receive credit." Obama said, "The idea that I somehow took on health care just because I thought it was fun or it would somehow burnish my legacy is nuts," adding, "Because we knew going [into] 2008 that every president since Teddy Roosevelt had failed to do what every other advanced democracy in the world has done."

Insurance Premiums Set To Sharply Rise Next Year In New York.

Newsday (NY) (7/1, Polsky, 1.52M) reports that insurance premiums in New York state are positioned to "rise sharply in January, as measures to undercut the Affordable Care Act start to take effect." The 14 insurers in the state "are asking for a weighted-average hike of 24 percent, with individual requests ranging from an actual rate cut to up to a 38.6 percent increase." Newsday adds, "The highest rate was requested by Fidelis Care, which has the highest percentage of individual enrollment in 2018, with 41 percent of enrollees with qualified health plans."

Medica To Add Two More States: Missouri, Oklahoma.

The Minneapolis Star Tribune (6/29, Snowbeck, 1.16M) reports health insurer Medica is planning on expanding next year into individual insurance markets in Missouri and Oklahoma. The growth brings the insurer's total to eight states. The Star Tribune points out, "While many health insurers over the past two years have fled red ink in the individual market under the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA), Medica has grown from its base in Minnesota, North Dakota and Wisconsin into Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska."

University Of Mississippi Medical Center To Continue Treating Blue Cross Patients As In-Network During Mediation Process.

The Jackson (MS) Clarion Ledger (6/29, Wolfe, 287K) reported the University of Mississippi Medical Center has agreed to continue treating patients with insurance from Blue Cross & Blue Shield as "in-network" while the two attempt to resolve a contract dispute. Both sides have agreed to meet with a "professional mediator."

Opinion: IRS Should Let Workers Spend Pretax Money On Healthcare.

Regina Herzlinger, a Harvard Business School professor, and Joel Klein, chief policy and strategy officer at Oscar Health, writes the Wall Street Journal (7/1, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) that healthcare is becoming an unsustainable expense as the Milliman Medical Index estimates that insurance for an American family of four was \$28,000 this year. They propose a solution to have the Internal Revenue Service permit workers to buy health insurance using pretax dollars, like employers.

Editorial: Minnesota Helps Bring Insurance Premiums Down, But Faces Funding “Cliff.”

The Minneapolis Star Tribune (6/30, 1.16M) editorialized that insurers in Minnesota are proposing rate decreases on the individual market by 7 to 12 percent. The editorial explained that the state legislature’s “reinsurance” program “played a played a lead role in keeping rates down.” The piece adds, “A different and far more daunting health care challenge looms: a towering state funding cliff that could weaken Minnesota’s health-care-driven economy and undermine coverage for 982,000 Minnesotans relying on public programs.”

Op-Ed: Most Physicians Unaware Of Ways They Can Reduce Healthcare Costs For Patients.

Hussain Lalani, resident physician in Dallas, Texas, writes in a column for the Dallas Morning News (6/29, 1.05M) that as one of more than 30,000 new physicians beginning medical residency July 1, he is “concerned that we will contribute to the \$750 billion epidemic of excessive health care spending...and risk financially hurting our patients if we do not know the cost of what we prescribe.” Lalani explained, “Most patients want their doctors to talk about costs of care with them. ... Yet, most doctors don’t know the specific costs of what they prescribe.” He noted that often, there are “cheaper, equally effective alternatives” physicians can use to minimize healthcare costs.

Human Services News

HHS Provides Maine Group With \$200K Grant For Health Work.

The AP (7/1) reports that the Department of Health and Human Services has provided a \$200,000 grant to help the Aroostook County, Maine Action Program “connect more residents with health services.” Sens. Angus King (I-ME) and Susan Collins (R-ME) “say the action program plays an important role in linking residents of far northern Maine to services.”

July 1 Marks Change In Arizona Child Welfare Laws.

The Arizona Republic (7/1, 1.21M) reports that July 1 marked a change

in Arizona's child-welfare proceedings. As of that date, "except in emergency situations, child welfare workers will no longer be able to remove a child from her home to protect against abuse or neglect without first getting a court's permission." While critics hope the change will end what they refer to as the "warrantless seizures" of children, "the experience of other states, and the expectations of the lawmakers who championed the legislation, suggests it will have a more subtle effect on the number of child removals."

District Of Columbia Extends Deadline For Daycare Workers To Meet New Education Requirements.

The Washington Post (6/29, Stein, 15.68M) reported that Washington, DC's government has extended a deadline for the city's "daycare employees to meet stricter education requirements after workers in the field argued that the new rules were unrealistic to complete." Two years ago, the city enacted some of the "most advanced education requirements for childcare workers" in the US, but faced "a backlash, with critics arguing that childcare workers are often paid minimum wage and there is little incentive for them to obtain higher degrees." On June 29, the city announced it would provide "employees an additional one to four years to complete certification or degree requirements."

The AP (6/30) reported that "lead teachers in child care centers now have until December 2023 instead of 2020 to earn an associate's degree," while "requirements for assistant teachers, home caregivers and associate home caregivers were pushed back from 2018 to 2019."

Ohio Hasn't Used \$5M Designated For At-Risk Youth In 2018.

The AP (7/1) reports that so far, Ohio has not spent any of the \$5 million it has designated in 2018 "for services for troubled youth on the cusp of being removed from their homes or at risk of entering the justice or foster-care systems." Money from the so-called "crisis stabilization fund" was earmarked "to help pay for support groups, child care, transportation and other expenses," and "county Family and Children First councils were given the task of making local plans to administer the funds." Child welfare advocates argue that "stipulations attached to the federally funded program have caused roadblocks."

Maine Governor Vetoes Bills To Increase Reimbursement Rates For Direct Care Workers.

The Portland (ME) Press Herald (6/29, Pols, 157K) reported that on the evening of June 29, Gov. Paul LePage (R-ME) vetoed two measures that would have boosted "reimbursement rates for the agencies that hire direct care workers who provide key support for adults with intellectual disabilities, as well as those who care for the elderly in nursing homes." Last week, the Legislature unanimously passed a measure affecting workers who care for "intellectually disabled adults," and supporters hope they will be able to gather "the two-thirds majority necessary to

override the governor's veto when lawmakers return on July 9." The current veto, however, means pay rates reverted to 2017 levels as of July 1, and workers were set to "face an immediate 12 percent pay cut," according to Maine Association for Community Service Providers Executive Director Lydia Dawson, to a pay level of \$9.17 per hour, less than the minimum wage.

Food & Import Safety

Wish-Bone Recalls Salad Dressing For Possible Allergens.

The [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (7/1, 252K) reports, "Pinnacle Foods Inc. is recalling 7,768 cases of Wish-Bone House Italian salad dressing distributed nationwide after learning from a customer that some bottles were mislabeled," according to the FDA. The voluntary recall pertains to "15-ounce bottles which may not list milk or egg, potential allergens, as ingredients," and impacts products with a "Best If Used By" date of Jan. 13, 2019.

The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (7/1, Krueger, 521K) reports,

"According to the company, 7,768 cases of the recalled product was distributed."

Nutrition & Obesity

Beverage Industry Scores "Defining Victory" In Banning Soda Taxes In California.

The Washington Post (6/30, Dewey, 15.68M) reported that the beverage industry "scored a defining victory" in its battle against soda taxes last week when California lawmakers voted to bar future local taxes on sugary drinks. According to the Post, "under the fast-moving ban introduced June 23 and signed into law five days later, no new food or beverage taxes can be passed in the state until 2031 at the earliest." The article said that the law "represents a significant, if long-anticipated, shift among the nation's soda makers, who have previously fought taxes, city by city, and expended millions of dollars in the process."

Fortune (6/29, Mukherjee, 3.91M) examined how such a measure

seems unlikely in a state known for progressive policies and attributed to passing of the legislation to a “successful, no-holds-barred campaign by the beverage industry and its supporters to nix even the possibility of local soda taxes in exchange for standing down on a controversial tax-related ballot measure.”

In commentary published by The Hill (7/1, 2.71M), Larry Cohen, the executive director of the nonprofit Prevention Institute, maintains that the “new law banning soda taxes in California is a setback.” But when teenage health advocates from Stockton “urged lawmakers to stand with communities like theirs and put people’s health over corporate profits,” the “other side was conspicuously quiet” so, we “won’t give up on reigning in the soda industry.”

Also reporting were Kaiser Health News (6/29, Young) and U.S. News & World Report (6/29, Lardieri, 1.97M).

Medicare

CMS To Test Medicare Advantage Plans As APMs.

Modern Healthcare (6/29, Dickson, Subscription Publication, 239K) reported the CMS "wants to launch an experiment that allows doctors in Medicare Advantage plans to qualify as participating in an alternative pay model." Clinicians in Medicare Advantage plans "have urged the CMS to consider those plans as APMs since some are offering risk-based contracts."

Medicaid &CHIP

Sununu Signs Reauthorized Medicaid Expansion Bill.

The AP (6/29) reports Republican Gov. Chris Sununu "has signed a bill to continue New Hampshire's expanded Medicaid program for another five years." The current program "uses Medicaid funds to purchase private health plans for about 50,000 low-income residents. It would have expired this year if lawmakers didn't reauthorize it." The bill "also changes its structure to a more cost-effective managed care model."

The New Hampshire Union Leader (6/29, 122K) quoted Sununu saying, "This is probably the biggest single piece of landmark legislation I have been involved with as governor." The Nashua (NH) Telegraph (6/30, 44K) reported that the law "still needs federal approval for some of the waivers it is seeking, such as for the work requirement for able-bodied, childless adults."

Maine Governor Vetoes Medicaid Expansion Funding.

The Portland (ME) Press Herald (6/29, 157K) reported Maine Gov. Paul LePage "vetoed a \$60 million Medicaid expansion funding bill Friday, an expected move that sets up a veto override vote by lawmakers when they return on July 9." LePage "said in a statement Friday evening that he vetoed the bill, passed by the Legislature last week, because lawmakers acted in a fiscally irresponsible manner."

The AP (7/1, Villeneuve) reported Maine "is the only state whose voters have approved expanding Medicaid to low-income residents, but expansion originally set for Monday is in limbo as a legal battle between the fiscally conservative governor and advocates continues."

Maine's Medicaid Program To Cover Chiropractic Exams.

The AP (6/30) reports Maine's Medicaid program "will start covering chiropractic exams under a new law," which is expected to require "about \$67,000 from Maine's general fund and \$122,000 in federal funds."

Idaho GOP Committee Passes Resolution Opposing Medicaid Expansion Initiative.

The Idaho Press Tribune (6/29) reported the Idaho Republican Party's resolutions committee "approved a resolution this morning opposing the Medicaid expansion ballot initiative, in one of the first resolutions to gain support during the 2018 GOP convention, reports Bryan Clark of the Idaho Falls Post Register." The resolution, "drafted and submitted by the Bonneville County Central Committee, passed on an overwhelming voice vote in the committee, though there was a small group of dissenters."

The AP (6/29, Kruesi) reported the resolution – which "still needs to win approval from delegates during Saturday's general session – warns 'the current Medicaid program is already cannibalizing dollars for schools and roads by growing at a faster rate than other major programs and expansion will further erode support for other critical spending needs.'"

Iowa's New Private Medicaid Company Has "Troubled Past."

The Des Moines (IA) Register (7/1, Clayworth, 292K) reports that an investigation shows that "the corporation selected to help manage Iowa's controversial privatized Medicaid system has faced serious charges of mismanagement resulting in at least \$23.6 million in penalties in more than a dozen states." Iowa Total Care, a subsidiary of Centene, "was awarded a state Medicaid contract in May by the Iowa Department of Human Services despite scoring nearly 14 points lower on its evaluation than when it had applied and was rejected in 2015, public records show." But with "only two companies bidding for the work, Iowa Total Care won a spot managing Iowa's annual \$4.8 billion Medicaid program."

Arkansas Suspends Medicaid Payments To Missouri Nonprofit After Arrest.

The AP (6/30) reports authorities in Arkansas "have suspended Medicaid payments to a Missouri nonprofit after a former executive with the agency was arrested as part of a scheme to improperly bill almost \$2.3 million in claims for mental health services." Citing the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, the AP reports that the suspension Friday of Medicaid payments "comes a day after Robin Raveendran, formerly executive vice president for Preferred Family Healthcare, was arrested on two counts of Medicaid fraud."

Ohio Medicaid Execs Criticized For Defending Pharmacy Middlemen.

The Columbus (OH) Dispatch (7/1, 399K) reports that criticism “rained down” on Ohio Medicaid executives during a legislative hearing last week as they “reported on findings by a consultant who delved into practices of pharmacy benefit managers, which play the role of middlemen between Medicaid’s managed care outfits and Ohio pharmacies.”

Iowa Hospital Association Says State Has No Data To Support Medicaid Savings Claim.

The Cedar Rapids (IA) Gazette (7/1, Ramm, 146K) reports the Iowa Hospital Association said Iowa Medicaid Enterprises Director Michael Randol has no data to back up his claim that the state’s managed-care model is saving money. The IHA says the state is saving money “because the Medicaid insurance companies are not adequately reimbursing health care providers for their services,” according to the article.

West Virginia Medicaid Waiver Expands Options For Substance Abuse Treatment.

The Exponent Telegram (WV) (7/1, Snoderly) reports that the second phase of a Medicaid waiver in West Virginia has been “rolled out” which will focus “more on intensive services for individuals with substance use disorders, according to Bureau of Medical Services Commissioner Cindy Beane.” The waiver allows the state to sidestep the Institutions for Mental Diseases Medicaid exclusion that “prohibits the use of federal funds for care provided to patients in mental health facilities with more than 16 beds.” West Virginia was “awarded the waiver in October 2017, making it the fifth state to receive the approval.”

Article Examines Why Tennessee Has Not Expanded Medicaid.

The Tennessean (6/29, Allison, 513K) featured an article that examined why the state has not been among those to expand Medicaid. The piece highlighted a way to cover Tennessee’s 10% share of Medicaid expansion cost, and how it could lower insurance premiums.

Health & Medical News

Scientists Warn On Increased Mortality Risk From Prolonged Sitting.

NBC Nightly News 📺 Video (6/29, story 12, 0:20, Holt, 6.8M) reported American Cancer Society scientists warn that sitting for at least six hours a day can “lead to a nearly 20 percent higher risk of death, compared with people who sat for just three hours.” They said, “Spending all that time sitting was linked to 14 diseases.”

People Fail To Properly Wash Hands While Cooking 97 Percent Of The Time, Study Finds.

USA Today (6/29, Molina, 11.4M) reported, “Ahead of Fourth of July grilling, the U.S. Department of Agriculture is offering a reminder to wash our hands” properly.

TIME (6/30, Ducharme, 19.27M) reported, “People fail to properly wash

their hands while cooking 97% of the time, potentially opening them up to food-borne illnesses such as salmonella, norovirus and E. coli,” research indicated. The findings came from a US Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety and Inspection Service study.

US Evacuates More Americans From China Following Mystery Illness Complaints.

The Wall Street Journal (7/1, Chen, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) reports that at least nine Americans have been medically evacuated from the Chinese city of Guangzhou following complaints of abnormal aural sensations similar to those experienced by US diplomats in Cuba last year. To date, only one American in China has been confirmed as having symptoms and clinical findings consistent with those experienced by U.S. diplomats in Cuba, according to the Journal. However, US embassy staff were told in June that the evacuations of the Americans were not all connected to the mysterious symptoms.

The New York Times (6/30, Myers, 19.33M) said the State Department “evacuated at least 11 Americans from China” after abnormal sounds or sensations were reported by government employees at the US Consulate in Guangzhou.

Most People Apply Too Little Sunscreen.

The Wall Street Journal (6/29, McGinty, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) reported that many people do not apply enough sunscreen, and dermatologists sometimes have difficulty explaining how much should be used. Sandy Walsh, a spokeswoman for the FDA, said, "The amount of sunscreen applied for each consumer will be based on their specific attributes including body size, the amount of body hair and sensitivity to the sun." The article also pointed out that a study published earlier this year in the Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology indicated that using sunscreens that have an SPF that is higher than 50 is beneficial.

Being Married May Reduce Risk Of Heart Disease, Cardiovascular Death, Review Suggests.

The New York Times (6/29, Bakalar, 19.33M) reported that a review suggests "being married may reduce the risk of heart disease and cardiovascular death." The findings were published in the BMJ.

Researchers Developing Artificial Ovary To Help Young Cancer Patients Preserve Fertility.

On its website, [CNN](#) (7/1, Scutti, 82.6M) reports a group of Danish researchers developing an artificial ovary “have engineered a ‘scaffold’ on which early-stage cells can develop into functional ovarian follicles,” which could help younger cancer patients preserve their “fertility from the impact of cancer treatments, experts say.” Researchers will present the study Monday at the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology annual meeting in Barcelona, Spain.

Immunotherapy “Revolution” Is “Greatest Hope Yet” For Beating Cancer.

The [Telegraph \(UK\)](#) (7/2, Vonderheide, 976K) reports that new cancer treatments “that harness the patient’s immune system mark the ‘end of the beginning’ of the fight against cancer.” The story of immunotherapy drugs “has radically altered how we treat some of the most common and deadly cancers – and our work applying those approaches to tackle even more of them.”

FDA Approves First Drug To Reduce Excessive Sweating.

The [AP](#) (6/29, Johnson) reported that on June 29, the Food and Drug

Administration “approved the first drug developed specifically to reduce excessive sweating,” Qbrexza (glycopyrronium), manufactured by Dermira. The drug will be “inside a cloth wiped over the skin daily to block sweat glands from activating.” The drug will start being available in October.

Reuters (6/29, Mishra) reported, “Currently, Allergan’s (AGN.N) Botox injection is used to treat” excessive sweating, and “other treatments include antiperspirants and costlier alternatives such as laser therapy, as well as localized surgery like liposuction to remove sweat glands.” Cowen analysts have estimated the drug could have “sales of \$250 million to \$300 million by 2023.”

Newsweek (6/29, Spear, 2.18M) reported that “in one study, 53 percent of patients said Qbrexza reduced sweat production by roughly half, versus 28 percent in a comparison group using a non-medicated cloth, the drug company reported.”

Also covering the story were Forbes (6/30, Lee, 10.34M) and TIME (6/30, Ducharme, 19.27M).

CDC Warns Of Shingrix Vaccine Shortage.

CBS News (6/29, 6.78M) reported on its website that the Centers for

Disease Control and Prevention has warned about a shortage of the Shingrix shingles vaccine. On "CBS This Morning" on June 30, Dr. David Agus said, "It's a really potent, excellent vaccine. I got it myself. And this is a vaccine where the old vaccine worked 30, 40 percent of the time. This is 97 percent of the time." He offered advice for people attempting to find the vaccine, adding, "Call ahead to a pharmacy. Make sure they have it. You can get it at a pharmacy, your doctor's office."

The Philadelphia Inquirer (6/29, Schaefer, 1.07M) reported on the high demand for the Shingrix vaccine, pointing out that "a quick check of some pharmacies in the Philadelphia region found the vaccine was still available, but not at all locations." The Inquirer reported that Shingrix's maker, GlaxoSmithKline, "has recommended that people who need the second of the two-dose series of the vaccine get priority."

Police Investigate Elder Abuse Against Comic Book Creator Stan Lee, 95.

The AP (6/30, Dalton) reported that, after the death last July of Joan, "his wife of 69 years and partner in all things," comic book creator Stan Lee, 95, "has found himself in the middle of a fight over his finances and legacy that has led to lawsuits, a restraining order and a police investigation of elder abuse." The article used Lee's case to make the larger point that "Lee's status as a celebrity in declining mental health and vulnerable to exploitation has many precedents and may become increasingly common as a wave of wealthy baby boomers reaches old age." A restraining order against a memorabilia collector alleged that

the collector “isolated him from associates, friends and relatives, which is considered a form of elder abuse.”

Mississippi Public Agencies Must Now Cover Increased Share Of Worker Pensions.

The AP (6/29, Amy) reported, “Public agencies in Mississippi will have to contribute another \$100 million toward worker pensions beginning July 1, 2019, after a vote by the state Public Employees Retirement System’s board.” Employers will now be required to provide 17.4 percent of a worker’s salary, up from 15.75 percent, while workers will continue to contribute 9% of their own paychecks. The state’s retirement system currently has 61 percent of the assets needed to cover future benefits. approved changes indicate that the state’s retirement plan will be 100 percent funded by 2047, although that remains heavily reliant on the projected rate of investment returns.

Surveys: Financially Independent Millenials Are Happier Than Those With Money Worries.

CNBC (7/1, 4.81M) reports on its website that a decade-long study by the National Endowment for Financial Education found that financially independent millenials tended to be more confident and happier overall.

NEFE Chief Executive Officer Ted Beck said that the path to financial independence begins long before college, urging parents to have regular discussions with their children on financial responsibility. Similarly, a recent survey from T. Rowe Price found that “young adults who discussed money with their parents are more likely to have a budget, more likely to have an emergency fund, more likely to put 10 percent or more of their income toward savings and more likely to have a retirement account.”

Retirees Increasingly Becoming Entrepreneurs, Cites AARP Study.


As part of a series, “Silver Linings,” on the issues of New Hampshire’s aging population, the New Hampshire Union Leader (7/1, Baker, 122K) reports the rising number of retirees starting businesses as entrepreneurs. The article cites Small Business Administration data that the number of people aged 62 and older who are self-employed is “rising” nationwide. It also cites a 2015 AARP survey that “only” 10 percent of New Hampshire residents aged 50 and older plan to retire and never return to work.

Study Reveals Views On Social Media Bias.

The Washington Times (6/29, Sabes, 460K) reported that a new Pew

Research Center poll of about 5,000 people found that 85 percent of Republicans believe social media sites tend to bias what they show, and 72 percent of Americans believe social media sites censor political views. Younger adults tended to trust social medias sites more than older respondents, with 67 percent of those 18 to 29 years of age saying that the websites censor views, while 81 percent of "seniors" believe that they do.

Hospitals Across US Experiencing Shortages Of Beds For Children With Mental Health Illnesses.

NBC Nightly News  Video (6/29, story 8, 4:05, Holt, 6.8M) reported on a "growing crisis" in American hospitals: "there are simply not enough beds to accommodate kids who need to be hospitalized" for mental illnesses. According to NBC News, "the crisis is nationwide, with nearly a 40-percent increase in psychiatric visits to emergency rooms." One hospital in Kansas said it turned away 2,000 children last year alone, NBC added.

Colorado Hospital Sues Patient For Surgery Bill, Highlighting Alleged Price Gouging.

The Denver Post (6/29, Osher, 755K) reported on a patient in Colorado

who underwent spinal-fusion surgery at the nonprofit St. Anthony North Health Campus and was later sued by the hospital for \$229,112.13 for unpaid medical bills. The article said the case highlights “a growing conflict over skyrocketing health care costs pitting employer-based, self-funded insurance plans against hospitals,” and added that “a growing number of employers are refusing to pay the full amount of the hospital bills of their workers due to alleged price gouging by the hospitals.” The piece continued, “As justification, they point to data that consultants have unearthed showing wide disparities in hospital billing.”

Oklahoma Drafts Rules To Regulate Medical Marijuana Following Successful Legalization.

The AP (6/30) reported that Oklahomans voted to legalize medical marijuana Tuesday “via State Question 788, which passed with about 57 percent support in an election with unusually high turnout.” Now, the state health department is circulating draft rules to regulate medical marijuana licenses for patients, caregivers, and businesses in a move to tighten the new legislation that the AP said is “broad.” The proposed rules would ban “dispensaries near schools, indoor smoking in public places and psychoactive gummy bears,” and “lay out guidance for doctors interested in recommending marijuana, patients who want to use it and businesses looking to grow, process or sell it.”

Many Families Still Live With Arsenic, Lead In Everett, Washington.

The AP (6/30) reported that “nearly three decades” after Washington state discovered large amounts of arsenic and lead in properties surrounding a former smelter site in Everett, “about 150 homeowners are still waiting for the contamination to be cleaned up.” So far, about 350 properties have been cleaned up using a \$34 million settlement, but the fund only has enough to remediate 20 more properties in 2019.

Delaware Lawmakers Vote To Ban Powdered Alcohol.

The AP (6/30, Chase) reported that Delaware lawmakers gave final approval to a bill “outlawing the manufacture, sale and use of powdered alcoholic beverages.” Enactment of the legislation would make Delaware the 37th state to ban “powdered substances that form alcoholic drinks when reconstituted with liquid.” According to the AP, “the American Medical Association has called for a nationwide ban on powdered alcohol, which critics say carries the risk of more potent drinks and harmful overconsumption.”

Angelman Syndrome Receives Its Own Medical Code.

The Atlantic (6/29, Yong, 3.08M) reported that Angelman syndrome has been granted its own medical code, Q93.51, under the International Classification of Diseases. The article said the medical standard allows researchers “to interrogate large databases and find out how many patients have a particular disorder, what secondary problems they experience, what treatments they typically receive, how many times they’re admitted to the hospital, and more. Insurers use them to decide what treatments should be reimbursed.”

California Vaccine Skeptic Put On Probation By State Medical Board.

The Los Angeles Times (6/29, Karlamangla, 4.03M) reported that the Medical Board of California has ordered 35 months’ probation for Dr. Bob Sears, “an Orange County pediatrician well-known for being sympathetic to parents opposed to vaccines.” According to the Times, “Sears can keep practicing medicine but will be required to take 40 hours of medical education courses a year, as well as an ethics class, and also be monitored by a fellow doctor.” In addition, he “must notify all hospital and medical facilities where he practices of the order and is not allowed to supervise physician assistants or nurse practitioners.”

Opinion: Antibacterial Debate Must Weigh Risks, Benefits.

Bloomberg View (6/29, 4.46M) opinion columnist Faye Flam wrote about the safety concerns surrounding the antibacterial chemical triclosan, and highlighted recent evidence which showed the chemical can have negative side effects. Flam wrote, "There's only one rational way out of this bind: to think about safety not as a black or white issue, but to consider risk-benefit ratios." Flam said "the FDA did consider both sides of the equation in 2016, when it required companies to phase triclosan out of soaps and body washes, citing safety concerns and lack of evidence for any benefit."

Woman's Facebook Post Says Menthol Shaving Cream Soothes Sunburns.

TODAY (6/29, Murray, 1.19M) reported that in a Facebook post, a woman discusses her "trick to getting rid of sunburn," which is "applying menthol shaving cream on the burn, which the poster said 'takes the heat out' and soothes skin." However, "dermatologists say it's no magic solution for sunburns, although it might provide some relief."

AMA President-Elect Profiled.

The AP (7/1, Severino) profiles Patrice Harris, MD, who “will become the 174th president of the AMA in June 2019, and is now serving as president-elect.” Dr. Harris “was elected to the post earlier this month.” The AP adds, “In her vision for the AMA, Harris said she wants to improve the education of up and coming medical professionals.” The article also points out that Dr. Harris “served on the American Psychiatric Association board and was later named by the APA as a delegate to the AMA.”

AARP Dedicates \$60 Million To Dementia, Alzheimer’s Disease Research Fund.

Health IT Analytics (6/29) reported the AARP’s Brain Health Fund has vowed to “invest \$60 million in the Dementia Discovery Fund (DDF) to accelerate the development of innovative treatments for dementia and Alzheimer’s disease.” The research is considered “vital for dementia treatment as the condition becomes more and more prevalent,” the piece said, adding, “NIH also recently convened a group of leading experts to discuss how to best foster a collaborative research environment and use precision medicine to ultimately discover a cure for these chronic, degenerative conditions.”

Ohio, Washington Officials Confirm West Nile Virus-Carrying Mosquitoes.

Newsweek (6/29, Spear, 2.18M) reported Ohio and Washington health officials “are urging people to protect themselves against mosquitoes after insects in these states tested positive for the West Nile virus.” Data from the Ohio Department of Health showed “mosquitoes near Alexandria, Johnstown and Harrison Township in Ohio had the virus,” while Washington officials “discovered a pool of mosquitos that tested positive for the virus in Benton County.” The article added that the National Institutes of Health says severe cases of West Nile virus in humans can “affect the nervous system, and trigger conditions including meningitis, and inflammation of the brain called encephalitis.”

Michigan’s Detroit Area Becoming A “Hotspot” For Vaccination Waivers, Study Suggests.

The Detroit News (7/1, 710K) reports that according to health researchers, a growing number of “parents choosing not to vaccinate their children for non-medical reasons” has led to the rise of “‘hotspots’ across the country and in Metro Detroit.” The piece says that since 2009, “the number of kindergarten-age children enrolling in school with non-medical waivers has climbed in 12 of 18 states that allow the exemptions, according to a peer-reviewed study published June 12 in the Public Library of Science journal PLOS Medicine.” Cities including “Troy, Warren and Detroit were among the areas in Michigan where more than 400 kindergartners had received the non-medical vaccination exemptions, according to the PLOS report.”

WPost: Stalling Malaria Fight Could Jeopardize Children's Lives.

The Washington Post (7/1, 15.68M) editorial says that while the number of malaria cases and deaths have declined steadily for a decade and a half as "global public-health officials have been at war" with the disease, the "battle shows signs of stalling." In 2016, "the number of malaria cases went up to 215 million, from 210 million the year before," the Post says, adding that malaria "kills more than 445,000 people annually, about 70 percent of them children under 5 years old." The Post adds that the fight against malaria will be won "by action on many fronts. A stall, after so much promise, would be terrible and costly."

Indiana Resident Contracts Rare Flu Strain After Exposure To Pigs At Fair.

The Indianapolis Star (7/1, Fittes, 477K) reports health officials are warning Indiana residents "to take preventative measures this fair season, after an Indiana resident caught the influenza virus following a visit to a county fair." In what is "the first human case of the H3N2 influenza in the Indiana since 2013, and first case reported nationwide this year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention," a resident has been sickened with a flu strain "commonly associated with contact with pigs, the Indiana State Department of Health and Indiana Board of Animal Health said in a statement Friday."

Op-Ed: New Chemotherapy Study Underscores Importance Of Non-Inferiority Trials.

Contributor Dr. Conor Lavelle wrote for [Quartz](#) (6/29, 788K) that a [study](#) published in New England Journal of Medicine assessing the effectiveness of “chemotherapy for a specific, common variant of breast cancer...found that thousands of women may not actually need to undergo the intensive, painful treatment.” Dr. Lavelle considers this “another important victory for something called a ‘non-inferiority trial,’” which “is arguably our most powerful weapon in the war against unnecessary or harmful pharmaceuticals – and it starts with putting people first.”

Loved One’s Cancer Diagnosis Can Spur Others To Seek Preventive Care.

[U.S. News & World Report](#) (6/29, Howley, 1.97M) examined the impact of watching a loved one endure cancer treatment, noting it “can have a hyper-focusing effect for many people.” The article spotlighted the case of one woman who was diagnosed with breast cancer and whose daughter after determining that the family had a history of “known breast-cancer causing mutation” on their BRCA2 genes. The ordeal caused the daughter to undergo genetic testing, finding that she “tested

positive for the same mutation as her mother” and prompting her to undergo a double mastectomy. The piece noted that the National Cancer Institute reports “about 69 percent of women who inherit a harmful BRCA2 mutation will develop breast cancer by the age of 80.”

Congress Passes Firefighter Cancer Registry Act.

The Springfield (MA) Republican (6/29, Flynn, 412K) reported Congress has passed the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act, which “allows the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention under the Secretary of Health and Human Services to create a voluntary and inclusive national registry that would allow scientists and others to track job-related cancer incidence for both career and volunteer firefighters.” The legislation also “authorizes \$2.5 million for each of the fiscal years 2018 through 2022 to carry out this broader collection of data to help improve measures to protect firefighters.” The piece added that the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health in 2010 “began a five-year study of nearly 30,000 firefighters” which found they “have a greater number of cancer diagnoses and cancer-related deaths,” which helped spur the creation of the legislation.

Amazon’s Latest Deal Shows It Plans To Disrupt How Industry Cares For Chronically Ill.

STAT Plus (6/29, Ross, Subscription Publication, 27K) reported that Amazon's acquisition of the home delivery pharmacy PillPack makes clear the company's ambitions to "not only fundamentally change treatment of U.S. patients, it wants a large chunk of the \$370 billion market for selling and distributing their prescription drugs." The PillPack deal "gives Amazon the infrastructure to become a national seller of prescription drugs," noting that "PillPack is already an in-network pharmacy for all the largest pharmacy benefit managers." STAT Plus adds, "To turn the corner in the pharmacy business – and lower costs within its own ranks – Amazon will need to figure out how to improve services for the chronically ill population."

US Judge Rules AbbVie, AndroGel Partner Owe \$448 Million In Antitrust Case.

Reuters (6/29, Raymond) reported that on June 29, US District Judge Harvey Bartle in Philadelphia ruled "that pharmaceutical company AbbVie Inc. used sham litigation to illegally prevent generic versions of testosterone replacement drug AndroGel from getting to market and ordered the drugmaker and its partner to pay \$448 million." The ruling was for an antitrust suit filed in 2014 by the FTC against both AbbVie and partner Besins Healthcare. The FTC had alleged AbbVie and Besins filed "baseless patent infringement lawsuits in 2011 against generic drugmakers Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd and Perrigo Company to delay the launch of their generic versions of AndroGel."

Amazon's PillPack Deal May Provide It With Access To Sensitive Health Data.

The Wall Street Journal (7/1, Stevens, Terlep, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) reports that Amazon's acquisition of PillPack will provide it with information about people's prescriptions, a move into the health and medical records space which the Journal describes as much more detailed than Amazon's previous efforts to track customers' purchases of things such as movies or toiletries. The Journal reports that an Amazon spokeswoman said the company plans to comply with regulations, including HIPAA.

WSJournal: Amazon's PillPack Deal Will Benefit Consumers, Force Competitors To Improve.

The Wall Street Journal (6/29, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) editorialized that Amazon's acquisition of online pharmacy PillPack will enable the company to grow rapidly to compete with drugstore industry giants. The combination will help patients get drugs faster and cheaper and will force competitors to improve service, the Journal adds. The article concludes Amazon's decision to enter the drug delivery industry is welcome, and could benefit consumers in the long run.

Similarly, a Forbes (6/29, 10.34M) column written by Christopher

Walton suggested that Amazon's entry into the industry will likely have an impact on CVS and Walgreens.

Meanwhile, for Bloomberg View (6/29, 4.46M), Faye Flam wrote, "If Amazon's move to disrupt health care is going to make Americans any healthier, the improvement is most likely to take place in the business of getting prescription drugs to patients more reliably."

More Suits Filed Against Florida Drugmaker Accused Of Selling Contaminated Medicines.

The South Florida Sun Sentinel (6/29, Hurtibise, 601K) reported that more suits have been filed against South Florida drugmaker PharmaTech LLC and its principals and distributors. The company is now facing seven suits "on behalf of patients said to have been sickened or killed, including three infants who reportedly died after being given a liquid stool softener made by the company." The company vacated its Davie, FL plant in June 2017 following FDA inspection reports in August 2016 and May 2017 that "identified numerous quality control deficiencies in its manufacturing processes," the Sentinel reported. The latest suit, filed in June in Broward County Circuit Court, identified the victim of an outbreak of water-borne bacteria "as Londyn Simone Manuel, who was born with a congenital heart defect in December 2016, and died before turning 8 months old after being given liquid docusate" made by the company.

District Court Extends Indivior's Order Blocking Launch Of US Generic Addiction Treatment.

Reuters (6/29, Varghese) reported that on June 29, the US Court for the District of New Jersey "extended a restraining order blocking" Mylan NV and Dr. Reddy's from launching a generic version of Indivior's Suboxone (buprenorphine and naloxone) Film, an opioid addiction treatment that generates around 80% of Indivior's revenue. "Indivior said its temporary restraining order (TRO) issued on June 15 had been extended for another 14 days, during which time the U.S. court for the District of New Jersey will consider the application and issue a ruling on the injunction."

FDA Cites Mylan For Morgantown Plant Manufacturing Issues.

The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (6/29, Sabatini, 507K) reported that on June 28, Mylan announced the FDA cited it in April for manufacturing issues at its Morgantown, WV plant. Among the issues an FDA inspection report cited were "numerous instances of a lack of appropriate oversight by the quality unit," along with problems related to "cleaning procedures used to prevent cross-contamination of drug ingredients." In a statement, Mylan said, "The company has submitted a comprehensive response to the agency and committed to a robust improvement plan."

Report: Nearly All Online Pharmacies Illegal.

Newsweek (7/1, Hugo, 2.18M) reports that “if you buy drugs from an online pharmacy, there’s a good chance that exchange is illegal – or worse.” In a report on darknet opioid sales, the Center for Safe Internet Pharmacies “found that people on both the darknet and surface web sell drugs like opioid painkillers through online ‘pharmacies,’ 97 percent of which operate illegally, according to the FDA.” Many of these online “pharmacies” are actually “drug-dealing websites set up to look like they simply sell prescription pills to those in need, and some claim to offer prescriptions.” CSIP Executive Director Marjorie Clifton “said that some non-opioid-selling pharmacies are legal, if they follow certain rules,” such as having “brick-and-mortar locations,” as well as being “licensed in every state that they sell to.”

Missouri Appeals Court Rejects \$55 Million Verdict Against Johnson & Johnson In Talc Powder Suit.

Reuters (6/29, Bellon) reported that on June 29, a Missouri appeals court “threw out a \$55 million verdict against Johnson & Johnson in a lawsuit by a woman who claimed she developed ovarian cancer after using talc-based products, including J&J’s baby powder.” The appeals court’s decision to dismiss the 2016 verdict cited “a 2017 U.S. Supreme

Court decision that limits where companies can be sued for personal injuries” and that found that “state courts cannot hear claims against companies that are not based in the state or when the alleged injuries did not occur there.” In a statement, J&J “said it was extremely pleased with the court’s decision to recognize that the trial should have never occurred.”

FDA Approves Pulmonx’s Valve For Emphysema.

Reuters (6/29, Mitra) reported that on June 29, the Food and Drug Administration “approved Pulmonx Inc.’s valve to treat” emphysema. The valve works by being “permanently implanted using a catheter in the affected part of a patient’s lung,” then regulating “the airflow to the healthier parts” of the lung. The average patient “may need four valves and depending upon the severity of emphysema, the cost of treatment could go up to \$10,000 per patient.”

Mass Device (6/29, Perriello) reported that the FDA “granted pre-market approval under its breakthrough devices designation,” based upon “a 190-patient study comparing treatment with Zephyr, plus standard medical management and pulmonary rehabilitation, to treatment with standard medical management and rehab only.” The trial benchmark “was at least a 15% improvement in pulmonary function score,” and around “47.7% of patients in the Zephyr arm met that mark, compared with 16.8% of the control arm, according to the FDA.”

NYC Expands Lead Testing Program For Children.

The New York Times (7/1, A18, Ferré-Sadurní, 19.33M) reported that in New York City, "the exact number of children residing in public housing poisoned by lead was never disclosed." This past weekend, however, "the city department of health offered a number," saying that "820 children younger than 6 were found to have elevated levels of lead in their blood between 2012 and 2016."

AM New York (7/1, Cook, Trangle, 591K) reports on its website that on July 1, New York City Mayor Bill De Blasio's Administration announced an expansion to a program to test lead levels in children. The city now will start "environmental investigations for all children younger than 18 who test above a blood lead level (BLL) of 5 micrograms per deciliter," an adjustment from the previous level of "10 micrograms per deciliter." The city health department has already started "investigations for children at NYCHA developments and will implement the new rules for the rest of the city by the end of the year, according to the mayor's office." The news follows the "day after a Daily News report that revealed the city knew of more than 800 children living in NYCHA apartments between 2012 and 2016 who had blood lead levels between 5 and 9 micrograms per deciliter."

The New York Post (7/1, Hicks, 4.46M) reports, "As many as 820 children in the city's housing projects tested for elevated levels of lead, but health officials failed to follow up and inspect their apartments, City Hall admitted Saturday." Despite the CDC in 2012 implementing a

recommendation “that authorities take action if children test positive for having more than 5 micrograms of the compound in their blood,” New York City “health officials continued to use the CDC’s old 10-microgram standard, meaning these 820 positive tests would not have been forwarded by city health officials to the New York City Housing Authority and would not have triggered a home inspection – potentially allowing the exposure to continue.”

Learning To Play Piano May Help Children Build Up Language Skills, Study Indicates.

TIME (7/1, Ducharme, 19.27M) reported research indicates learning to play the piano may help children “build up their language skills.” As youngsters’ “ears become trained to distinguish between different pitches and tones at the piano...they also seem to get better at parsing subtle differences between spoken words, a key element of language acquisition,” the study revealed. The findings were published online in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Tech Company CEO: Children Need To Be Guided Through Technology Thoughtfully.

In an opinion piece in USA Today (6/30, Ingram-Cauchy, Contributor,

11.4M), Pete Ingram-Cauchy, "CEO of iD Tech Camps, a STEM education company based in" California, wrote that even though "technology has its downsides...it holds untold promise and it is not going away." Children "just need to be guided through it thoughtfully and led to a place of creativity and passion."

Factors Behind Lagging Mainstream Adoption Of Telemedicine Examined.

CNBC (6/30, Farr, 4.81M) examined factors behind lagging mainstream adoption of telemedicine. The primary and "most important" factor "is that many U.S. consumers are still not aware they have the option to chat with their doctor over the phone or via video." In addition, patients who have "heard of telemedicine apps often fear the expense, especially if it's unclear whether they can use their health insurance." What's more, clinicians "who are willing to work with app makers are inexperienced, or low-quality." Many clinicians "are afraid of liability, as it's possible to miss something during a remote visit," and "reimbursement questions" remain .

Drivers For Car Services, Ride-Hailing Apps In New York Now Able To Get Coverage For Vision Care.

The AP (6/29, Matthews) reported that starting July 1 in New York, “drivers for car services and ride-hailing apps like Uber and Lyft” will “now be able to get coverage for vision care as well as phone or video appointments with doctors, industry representatives announced.” This “coverage for an estimated 43,000 drivers statewide will be paid for by the Black Car Fund, a workers’ compensation fund for car-service drivers that is funded by a 2.5 percent surcharge on each ride.”

Scientists’ Discovery Is “First Step” To Packaging Insulin In Pill.

The Boston Globe (7/2, 945K) reports that two developments – “a newly released study and the publication of new clinical trial data” – describe “advances toward an alternative approach” to diabetes management: “the delivery of blood-sugar-regulating hormones in a pill, long regarded as the ‘holy grail’ of diabetes treatment.” The study, “by University of California Santa Barbara and Harvard University scientists, demonstrated a technical breakthrough in the oral delivery of insulin, a hormone produced in the pancreas that allows the body to absorb and store sugar from the blood.” This discovery “is the first step in a longer process to package insulin in a pill that could take many years.” Enclosing insulin “in a particular ionic liquid, aptly named CAGE, has the dual benefit of protecting the hormone from stomach acid and promoting its absorption through layers of mucous and the intestinal wall. That could help it reach the liver.” One promising note, “experts say, is that the two ingredients of CAGE, choline and geranic acid, are generally regarded as safe by the Food and Drug Administration.”

Roche Encouraged By Tecentriq Trial Results.

Reuters (7/2) reports Swiss drugmaker Roche "said on Monday that a trial showed its immunotherapy Tecentriq plus the chemotherapy Abraxane significantly reduced the risk of disease worsening or death in people with metastatic triple negative breast cancer." The company, "citing its IMpassion130 study, said it also recorded an encouraging overall survival benefit for the PD-L1 positive population, whose tumors express a protein that help them evade immune system detection, at interim analysis."

Angela Garbes' New Book "Like A Mother" Discussed.

ABC's Good Morning America (7/2, Kindelan, 4.2M) discusses mother of two and author Angela Garbes' new book, "Like a Mother: A Feminist Journey Through the Science and Culture of Pregnancy," which GMA says "gives women straight talk on pregnancy, their bodies and life after giving birth." One topic the book covers is "lack of post-delivery care for new moms." Garbes' interest in post-delivery care for moms "stemmed from hip pain she suffered after giving birth." The piece adds that the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists "recently launched an initiative to address the issue of postpartum care for new moms called 'the fourth trimester.'"

Hawaii Bans Sale Of Sunscreens Containing Oxybenzone, Octinoxate.

NPR (7/2, Fulton, 3.55M) reports Hawaii's governor David Ige is expected "to sign the world's first ban on the sale of sunscreens containing the chemicals oxybenzone and octinoxate this week." The state is "banning the products because of concerns they may be harming one of the state's biggest attractions – coral reefs." Both chemicals "have had the Food and Drug Administration's OK for decades, but in recent years, some environmental research has suggested octinoxate can contribute to coral bleaching and that oxybenzone exposure leads to the death of baby coral."

Global Health

Britain's NHS To Reduce "Unnecessary Or Risky Procedures."

The AP (6/30) reported that Britain's NHS has proposed cutting back on operations including breast reductions and anti-snoring treatments as part of plans to save money and reduce "unnecessary or risky procedures." NHS medical director Stephen Powis said the agency "could save an estimated 200 million pounds (\$264 million) a year by tightening the criteria for treatments where the risks could outweigh the benefits." According to the AP, "the list of 17 treatments under consideration to be halted or reduced includes tonsil removals and procedures for carpal tunnel, hemorrhoids and varicose veins."

UK's NHS Making Plans To Ensure Ample Medical Supplies After Brexit.

The AP (7/1) reports that Britain's National Health Service "is making plans to ensure that medical supplies will be available if Britain leaves the European Union without a trade deal." NHS chief Simon Stevens said Sunday there is "significant planning" underway to make sure the NHS "can cope with a no-deal Brexit without a disruption in services." Stevens explained that Britain's health agency and other governmental departments are working to make sure supplies of medicine and medical equipment can still be accessed under various Brexit scenarios, according to the AP.

Reuters (7/1) reports that Stevens said the NHS is "working with pharmaceutical companies to make sure there will be no breakdown in supply if there is no deal with the EU."

Irish Cancer Patients Received Faulty Tests From US-Based Labs.

The [CBS Evening News 📺 Video](#) (6/29, story 7, 2:45, Glor, 5.29M) reported American laboratories Quest Diagnostics and Clinical Pathology Laboratories (CPL) "are coming under scrutiny because of faulty cancer tests in Ireland," where hundreds of women "were told they tested negative, only to find out years later they had cancer all along." Correspondent Roxana Saberi reported that Quest and CPL along with "an Irish lab processed smear tests for Ireland's health service. A government review four years ago found that the labs mistakenly cleared more than 200 women...who were later diagnosed with cervical cancer." Since that time, "18 of those women have died. But most of the women affected were never told until one of them...discovered a page from that review in her medical file."

Global Fund Combating AIDS, TB, Malaria Cancels Funding For North Korean Public Health Efforts.

[Science Magazine](#) (6/29, Stone, 441K) reported The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria announced that effective June 30, it will revoke its grants to North Korea, a revelation which "leaves the isolated nation with about 1 year to line up a new source of medicines and diagnostics to combat a deepening [tuberculosis] crisis." Medical researchers say they have "not gotten any clarity on why they are doing

this,” adding that the fund’s financial contributions of more than \$100 million to TB and malaria control in the country “has been the biggest outside investment ever in public health in North Korea.”

Novartis, Gilead CAR-T Therapies Both Gain European Panel Recommendation.

Reuters (6/29, Miller) reported that rival cancer therapies from Gilead Sciences and Novartis both won recommendations from the European Medicines Agency’s Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use. The committee recommended both Gilead’s Yescarta (axicabtagene ciloleucel) and Novartis’ Kymriah (tisagenlecleucel) for diffuse large B cell lymphoma, while it also recommended Yescarta for primary mediastinal B cell lymphoma and Kymriah for B cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Both of the CAR-T therapies are single-use treatments “in which immune cells are removed from patients, genetically engineered in the laboratory using disabled virus to target their blood cancers, and then re-infused.” Both drugs range in price in the US from between \$373,000 and \$475,000, depending on the cancer being treated.

Fierce Pharma (6/29, Sagonowsky) reported that both treatments received US approval several months ago. One reason for the high cost of the drugs “is their unique, patient-specific manufacturing,” as “CAR-T drugs are made of re-engineered T cells collected from each patient, which are then infused back into the patient to attack cancer.” Gilead recently said it will build “a CAR-T manufacturing plant at the Amsterdam airport in an effort to cut down on logistics and manufacturing turnaround time.”

AstraZeneca Receives “Speedy Approvals” For Cancer Drugs In Japan.

Reuters (7/2) reports AstraZeneca has won “rapid regulatory approval for new uses of two of its important cancer drugs in Japan, less than six months after the first global approvals in Western markets.” The decisions by the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare “reflect an increased urgency by officials in the country to access modern medicines, after many years of slow adoption.”

Ghana Reports H5 Bird Flu Outbreaks.

Reuters (6/29, Trompiz) reported that Ghana announced two outbreaks of “highly pathogenic H5 bird flu” on farms in the country. According to Reuters, “one of the outbreaks killed 5,431 birds out of an 11,000-strong flock on a farm in Boankra in the Ashanti region, while the other killed 5,935 out of 13,188 birds on a farm in Nkawkaw in the Eastern region.”

Researchers Warn That Gay Hate Climate In Indonesia Is Fueling HIV Epidemic.

The AP (7/2, Wright) reports on an “out-of-control but little-acknowledged epidemic of HIV among gay men in Indonesia that researchers say is being fueled by a gay hate climate whipped up by the country’s conservative political and religious leaders.” A Human Rights Watch report released Monday explained that “highly publicized police raids targeting gay men and a vicious outpouring of anti-LGBT rhetoric from officials and other influential figures since early 2016 have caused significant disruption to HIV awareness and testing programs.”

TIME (7/2, Haynes, 19.27M) reports Kyle Knight, an LGBT rights researcher at Human Rights Watch and author of the report, said, “What’s shifted in the last two years is that the government and police have made it abundantly clear that it’s perfectly okay to hate LGBT people and to act on it.” He cautioned, “Unless certain steps are taken to dial back on these raids, to create safe spaces for those to gather to gain information, to get safety, sense of dignity, community and privacy, this will spin out of control not just from a human rights perspective, but also from a public health perspective.” TIME adds, “Combined with the crackdown and heightened discrimination against LGBT people, the impending health crisis threatens to force the community into total retreat.”

India Celebrates End Of Nipah Virus Outbreak With Music Video.

NPR (7/1, Thiagarajan, 3.55M) reports India's Nipah virus outbreak "in May had all ingredients of an-edge-of-the-seat medical thriller" as the nation battled "one of the most lethal pathogens of our times." The article says, "Three weeks after Nipah had been identified as a cause of the outbreak, on June 10, Kerala's Minister for Health, K.K. Shylaja, declared that the state was Nipah-free. Of the 19 cases, two patients have recovered." After the outbreak was declared over, "a group of musicians and filmmakers decided to make a video to celebrate."

WTO Upholds Australia's Plain-Packaging Law.

Fortune (6/29, Meyer, 3.91M) reported in continuing coverage that the WTO last week ruled in favor of Australia's plain-packaging laws and said the country "is free to continue selling cigarettes in drab, olive-colored packaging without no branding beyond the manufacturer's name in small print, and with large and graphic health warnings dominating the packaging." The article said the WTO's decision "will likely have major ramifications around the world."

Bloomberg View (7/1, 4.46M) columnist David Fickling says "the world's ugliest cigarette packets aren't going away." Fickling says claims that Australian plain packaging does not make much of a difference do not "stand up to a lot of scrutiny: Studies supporting that claim have either been based on non-public data that can't be checked, or commissioned

by the industry, or both, according to a 2016 analysis by Australia's Department of Health."

Russians Protest Pension Age Hike.

Reuters (7/1) reports that although "thousands of Russians protested on Sunday over a government decision to increase the retirement age...there were no demonstrations in the cities hosting the World Cup because of security restrictions in force during the tournament." Published photos of the protest featured individuals with signs saying "Raise the pension, not the pension age!" and "Hands off our pensions!" A "close ally of President Vladimir Putin" last month stated "that the government wanted to raise the retirement age for men by five years, to 65 from 60, and for women by eight years, to 63 from 55," which supposedly is "to ease intense pressure on state coffers," per Reuters, while "critics say the retirement age in many regions is higher than life expectancy." Some polls reported Putin's approval rating dropped from 75 to 69 percent following the announcement.

Son Debates Assisted Dying Amid Mother's Alzheimer's Diagnosis.

Bernard Lyall writes in The Guardian (UK) (7/1, 4.03M) about his mother's Alzheimer's diagnosis, saying that "she who has lived entirely



by her wits has now lost them" to a word carrying "the ring of finality." Lyall says despite several emotional "blows," his mother retained "her instinct to put on a brave face, try to ignore it and muddle through regardless," which "was the way her generation coped," but has proved "disastrous" for her carers, because "whenever we hoped she'd understand some new limitation, or accept a new level of care, we had to choose between complicity in a face-saving but ultimately pointless pretence and provoking unreasoning anger." While "Kath had argued for the right to die, has a living will, and would have been horrified to see herself like this," now Lyall says that as "the power to let her go has fallen to me, it's not so simple." Lyall wonders whether someone's "younger self" should "be allowed to make such decisions about the person they are now."


National News

Trump Predicts Quick Supreme Court Confirmation "If I Pick The Right Person."

During an interview Sunday with [Fox News' Sunday Morning Futures Video](#) (7/1, Bartiromo, 1.79M), the President vowed he would "pick somebody who is outstanding" to replace retiring Supreme Court Justice

Anthony Kennedy. He also predicted that while Democrats would work to resist his choice, "I think it will go quickly if I pick the right person." The Washington Examiner (7/1, Chaitin, 340K) reports the President also predicted a "big week" ahead, declaring in a tweet Sunday he will be focused on deciding who he will nominate to succeed Kennedy.

Media reports, however, cast the President as ready for a fight with Democrats over his pick. On ABC World News Tonight  Video (7/1, story 4, 2:50, Llamas, 14.63M), for example, Tara Palmeri said Trump is "preparing for battle tonight over his highly anticipated Supreme Court pick." Trump: "It's probably going to be vicious because the other side, all they can do obstruct and resist. You know, their whole thing is resist." NBC Nightly News  Video (7/1, story 6, 2:00, Jackson, 8.26M) reported, "A vicious but fast fight. That's what President Trump says he expects once he announces the second Supreme Court nominee of his Administration" next week under "his self-imposed deadline." Kelly O'Donnell said the President, who is "on the trail this week, is already touting the influence of his high court selection to rally his own base."

The CBS Weekend News  Video (7/1, story 4, 2:40, Quijano, 5.32M) reported that while Trump "voiced confidence that his yet-to-be-announced Supreme Court nominee will be confirmed soon," his choice "needs the backing of nearly all Senate Republicans." According to the Wall Street Journal (7/1, Armour, Nicholas, Subscription Publication, 6.13M), White House officials are also meeting with Democrats, including the three who voted last year for Justice Neil Gorsuch: Sens. Joe Manchin, Heidi Heitkamp and Joe Donnelly.

USA Today (7/1, Estepa, 11.4M) reports that while Trump said he is "going to pick someone who is outstanding," the "eventual nominee already faces a hurdle: Republicans hold a slim 51-49 majority in the

Senate, and Sen. John McCain is out as he battles brain cancer. That means the president needs to cater to senators on both sides of the aisle if he hopes to get a majority to vote in favor of his pick."

Reports also continue to cast the issue of abortion as likely to be a focal point of the eventual nominee's confirmation hearings. Breitbart (7/1, Key, 1.28M) says Trump "hinted at the possible overturning of Roe v. Wade" during his interview with Fox News, saying the legality of abortion "could very well end up with states at some point." Asked if abortion rights should be decided by the states, Trump said, "Well, maybe someday it will be to the states. You never know how that's going to turn out. That's a very complex question. The Roe v. Wade is probably the one that people are talking about in terms of having an effect. But we will see what happens. But it could very well end up with states at some point."

TIME (7/1, Langone, 19.27M) reports that in the interview with Fox News, "Trump acknowledged that the status of Roe v. Wade is one of the key issues in the public's mind," but Newsweek (7/1, Fearnow, 2.18M) says he "hesitantly added, however, that he's not going to be 'so specific with the questions' used to query" candidates. Yahoo! News (7/1, Walsh, 12.44M) reports Trump, however, told Fox News, "They're all saying, 'Don't do that. You don't do that. You shouldn't do that.' But I'm putting conservative people on and I'm very proud of Neil Gorsuch. He's been outstanding. His opinions are you know so well written, so brilliant. And I'm going to try and do something like that but I don't think I'm going to be so specific in the questions I'll be asking. And I'm actually told I shouldn't be."

NJ News (7/1, Salant, 1.17M), however, notes that Trump "has pledged to nominate justices who will overturn Roe v. Wade," and "said he

would choose from a list of people vetted by the Federalist Society, a conservative legal group that opposes abortion. So he already knows how anyone on the list will vote on abortion, meaning he doesn't have to ask their views on the issue."

The Washington Free Beacon (7/1, Kugle, 67K) notes that "all four names Leo mentioned are on Trump's list of potential Supreme Court justices," but when asked if they are the front runners, Leo said, "No, I don't think it's fair to say that, and here's why. The president is really in the driver's seat along with the assistance of White House counsel Don McGahn. Those are people who are under very serious consideration."

Sen. Richard Blumenthal said on CBS' Face the Nation 📺 Video (7/1, Brennan, 3.28M), "The President has said that he will appoint someone only if he or she would 'automatically overturn Roe v. Wade.'" He added, "This decision will shape the Court for years to come and it could lead to criminalizing reproductive rights, as they were prior to Roe v. Wade when women were prosecuted and women died."

The AP (6/30, Harrisburg (PA), Patriot-News), meanwhile, reports that "some evangelical leaders are downplaying their fortune on an issue that has defined their movement for decades." Jerry Falwell Jr. told the AP, "What people don't understand is that if you overturn Roe v. Wade, all that does is give the states the right to decide whether abortion is legal or illegal. My guess is that there'd probably be less than 20 states that would make abortion illegal if given that right."

Sources: White House Officials Eyeing Exits Likely To Stay Through

Confirmation.


ABC News (7/1, Palmeri, 1.85M) reports on its website that “top White House officials worn out from the chaos of the Trump administration and eyeing the exits in the coming weeks are now considering staying on through the confirmation of a Supreme Court justice, three White House officials and two outside advisors” say. White House Counsel Don McGahn, Legislative Affairs Director Marc Short and Domestic Policy Director Andrew Bremberg “have told colleagues in the days following Supreme Court Justice Kennedy’s retirement announcement that they plan to stay on staff through the confirmation process.”


Cantwell: Wrong Vote On Nominee Could Be “Career-Ending Move.”

The Washington Times (7/1, Richardson, 460K) reports Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA) “warned her colleagues Sunday that a wrong decision” on President Trump’s nominee could become a “career-ending move.” Cantwell told NBC’s Meet the Press, “I think that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle know that this vote could be one of the key votes of their entire career. And they know that no matter what spin comes out of the White House, if they vote for somebody who’s going to change precedent, it could be a career-ending move.” The Hill (7/1, Birnbaum, 2.71M) also reports Cantwell’s comments.


A Washington Times (7/1, McLaughlin, 460K) analysis, meanwhile, says “red-state Democrats seeking re-election this fall were already facing the difficult task of navigating between their own virulently anti-Trump national party and the Republican-leaning voters needed to win back home. But that narrow path has become even more of a tightrope now that incumbents will be asked to take sides” on the President’s nomination. The Times says if Republicans “hold firm, the Senate is likely to vote on a Supreme Court nominee just as the midterm

campaign season hits full stride." But it "also means vulnerable Democrats in states such as West Virginia and North Dakota will have to choose between a president who easily won their states in 2016 and a frenzied liberal base intent on blocking anyone he chooses."

Seung Min Kim of the Washington Post said on [CNN Inside Politics](#)  [Video](#) (7/1, 733K), "For Senate Democrats, this is their one chance to really get their base to care about the Court. What we've seen last several years, perhaps the last decade is that conservatives are better at the court issue than Democrats in terms of just getting the base involved, getting their base excited," but "now with potentially the future of Roe v. Wade on the line, Democrats, this is their chance to really get their voters excited and that's why you're seeing the Democratic messaging on the Supreme Court already focusing on not only abortion, but future of the Affordable Care Act."

Michael Shear of the New York Times said on [CNN Inside Politics](#)  [Video](#) (7/1, 733K), "I think one of the things you're going to see is that the Democrats are going to try to make the case that to their base" that abortion and the Affordable Care Act are "something that you have to be united on...because what the Democrats need is to hold their entire - all 49 and then they only have to peel off one Republican."

Toomey: Special Counsel Investigation Should Not Prevent Trump Nomination.


Sen. Pat Toomey (R-PA), asked on [CBS' Face the Nation](#)  [Video](#) (7/1, Brennan, 3.28M) about the question of the Special Counsel investigation and the probability of the justice Trump appoints ruling in the case, said, "I think that is a ridiculous argument that is made as just an

attempt to make way for the real position, which is that President Trump should never be able to confirm a vacancy.” He added, “I don’t remember hearing the Democrats making that argument when President Bill Clinton was in fact personally under investigation when a vacancy occurred. My understanding is that President Trump is not himself personally the subject of the investigation even. I think that is a non-argument.”

Trump Retweets Elder Joke About Reporter Fired Over False MAGA Hat Claim.


The New York Post (7/1, Perez, 4.46M) reports that President Trump on Sunday retweeted “a tweet by conservative radio host Larry Elder...which poked fun at a newspaper reporter who lost his job after he falsely claimed that the Capital Gazette shooter wore a ‘Make America Great Again’ hat during the massacre.” Elder sent the tweet, which read, “BEWARE! #TrumpDerangementSyndrome can be career ending,” in response “to an article published by The Hill, which covered the resignation of Conor Berry, a former reporter at The Republican in Springfield, Mass.”


Hemingway: Press Sought To Tie Trump To Maryland Newspaper Shooting.

Mollie Hemingway of The Federalist said on Fox News MediaBuzz  Video (7/1, 1.61M), “It’s very difficult when something like this happens. You are desperate for information and speculation runs

rampant. I think it's important for journalists to make sure they are not speculating without evidence. It wasn't just bad that people started trying to tie President Trump to the shooting. It was that after the news came out showing that the shooter had a longstanding grudge against the publication dating back to 2011, many journalists kept saying that they thought this was somehow the responsibility of President Trump."


Waters: People Want Democrats To Be "More Confrontational" Against Trump.

Breitbart (7/1, Key, 1.28M) reports that Rep. Maxine Waters told MSNBC AM Joy  Video Sunday that weekend protests over the President's immigration policies show that "the people" want Democrats to be "more forceful" and "more confrontational" in their opposition. Waters said, "Well, let me just tell you this, first of all, the people of this country, no matter Republican or Democrat, do not like the idea that children have been separated. Republicans are making a mistake thinking they can hold on to that constituency, that so-called belongs to Donald Trump. On this issue, Republicans and Democrats, Independents alike are opposed to what is going on. And yes, people do want to see us being stronger and more forceful and to confront them on these policies."

Fox News (7/1, Chamberlain, 16.38M) reports on its website that Waters said she was "surprised" by criticism from Democratic leaders over her call for people to "push back" against members of the Administration. Waters said  Video, "One of the things I recognize, being an elected official, is in the final analysis, leadership ... will do

anything that they think is necessary to protect their leadership and so what I have to do is not focus on them." Waters added, "I was blessed with courage. And I was blessed with the kind of strength that does not allow me to be intimidated by the likes of Donald Trump. ... Let him call me whatever he wants to call me. Let him say whatever he wants to say. He will not stop me." The Hill (7/1, Wise, 2.71M) also reports on Waters' comments.

Todd: Trump Is "Winning," Democrats Are "Reeling."

Breitbart (7/1, Key, 1.28M) reports that Chuck Todd, host of NBC's Meet the Press  Video, said Sunday that President Trump is "winning" and Democrats are "reeling." Todd said, "The announced retirement of Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy this week helped make one political reality clear: Despite his overall unpopularity, President Trump is winning, and the Democrats right now are reeling. ... How about the Republican Party? The president's approval rating among Republicans is around 90 percent. Elected Republicans fear criticizing him, and the party has become a cult of personality: his." Todd continued, "Still, much of Mr. Trump's success is superficial. While he's more popular among Republicans, the party overall is shrinking. His trade war, North Korea, or the Mueller investigation all could turn against him and, frankly, turn against him now like North Korea has. But if the Democrats' reaction to the Kennedy retirement proved anything, it's that the Democratic Party has not figured out how to succeed in the Trump era."

Ocasio-Cortez: Democratic Socialism Just “Part Of What I Am.”

The Washington Times (7/1, Richardson, 460K) reports that in an interview with NBC's Meet the Press 📺 Video Sunday, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who defeated Rep. Joe Crowley in last week's primary in NY14, “downplayed...her affiliation with democratic socialism,” saying, “It’s part of what I am. It’s not all of what I am. And I think that that’s a very important distinction. ... I’m an educator, I’m an organizer. ... And I believe that what we’re really seeing is just a movement for health care housing and education in the United States.” Ocasio-Cortez added, “Democrats are a big tent party. ... I’m not trying to impose an ideology on all several hundred members of Congress, but I do think that once again it’s not selling an -ism or an ideology or a label or a color. It’s about selling our values.”

The New York Post (7/1, Moore, 4.46M) reports that Ocasio-Cortez “faulted Crowley, a 10-term incumbent, for not being more closely connected to the community,” saying, “I do think there was certainly a lack of presence, and that was a big part of my win. ... There was a lack of listening on the ground. A lack of going to the grocery store and saying ‘Hey, how you doing?’ That is an important work of representation.” Ocasio-Cortez also “said the Democrats must have a unified message that people can rally around, especially in the fight over President Trump’s nominee to the Supreme Court.” She said, “This Supreme Court seat is extremely serious. There is a federal investigation going on with direct implications to the presidency and that presidency is talking about nominating a Supreme Court pick that is going to essentially hear this case out.”


Duckworth: Democrats Can't Go Too Far Left An Win Nationwide.

The Washington Examiner (7/1, Ayers, 340K) reports that Sen. Tammy Duckworth warned Sunday that the Democratic Party should not move further to the left if they want to win the presidency. Following the surprising defeat of Crowley by Ocasio-Cortez, an "avowed Democratic socialist," Duckworth told CNN's State of the Union 📺 Video Sunday that "she doesn't foresee that being a winning strategy in the Midwest." Said Duckworth, "I think that you can't win the White House without the Midwest. ... And I don't think you can go too far to the left and still win the Midwest — coming from a Midwestern state." Duckworth urged dialogue with the "industrial Midwest," and said, "You need to listen to the people there in order to win an election nationwide."

The Washington Post (7/1, Scherer, 15.68M) says Democratic leaders are "scrambling to keep the political outrage they'd counted on to fuel midterm election wins from becoming a liability for the party." Internal debates "have broken into public view over maintaining civility and the usefulness of liberal slogans like 'abolish ICE,' which some Republicans have embraced to argue falsely that Democrats oppose immigration enforcement." Meanwhile, "liberal activists have begun to argue for more radical measures to counter the president, who they assert presents an immediate threat to the republic."


Rachel Bade of Politico said on CNN Inside Politics 📺 Video (7/1, 733K) that Ocasio-Cortez's primary win over Crowley "was a clear message to the top of Democratic leadership in the House that Democrats want change in their hierarchy and they want the establishment out, they

want new blood at the top and they are ready to see somebody else lead beyond Pelosi.”

John King said on [CNN Inside Politics](#)  [Video](#) (7/1, 733K), “If there’s a giant blue wave and Democrats win the House by 20 seats, Nancy Pelosi will be okay. She still is the party’s premier fundraiser. She still has a lot of loyalty in the caucus. However, if they just squeak by and a whole bunch of candidates promised in their TV ads I won’t vote for her, she’s going to have to negotiate either a temporary speakership...or she may have to go.”

Portland Police Declare Riot, Revoke Permit As Antifa Disrupts Protest.

[Breitbart](#) (7/1, Huston, 1.28M) reports that Portland, Oregon police “revoked a permit for a pro-America march and declared the scene a riot when counter-protesters erupted in violence on Saturday.” The permit had been “secured by the Patriot Prayer group that had planned a march entitled the ‘Freedom and Courage’ rally. But a large number of members of a local violent, black-clad Antifa group also gathered along the march route and began a series of confrontations with the marchers.” According to The Oregonian, the Antifa group “initiated hostilities by throwing eggs, bottles, and other items at the Patriot group, the paper noted.”


[ABC World News Tonight](#)  [Video](#) (7/1, story 9, 0:20, Llamas, 14.63M)

reported that according to police, at least four people were hurt “when right-wing demonstrators and counter-protesters broke out in brawls,” and “at least nine people [are] facing charges.” The [CBS Weekend News Video](#) (7/1, story 9, 0:20, Quijano, 5.32M) reported that officials “say they seized knives, clubs, and chemical sprays.”

NYTimes Analysis: Supreme Court Ruling Against Unions A Blow To Liberal Groups.

The [New York Times](#) (7/1, Scheiber, 19.33M) reports that the Supreme Court’s ruling “striking down mandatory union fees for government workers” will “hit hard at a vast network of groups dedicated to advancing liberal policies and candidates.” Groups that “work for immigrants and civil rights,” or “produce economic research” or “turn out voters or run ads in Democratic campaigns,” have “benefited from tens of millions of dollars a year from public-sector unions — funding now in jeopardy because of the prospective decline in union revenue.” According to liberal activists, cutting off that funding “was a crucial goal of the conservative groups that helped bring the case, known as *Janus v. American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees*,” and conservatives “have acknowledged as much. ... Even President Trump took notice of the justices’ ruling, declaring on Twitter that it was a ‘big loss for the coffers of the Democrats!’”


Trump Says He Wants To Stay “Uninvolved” In Russia Probe, “At Least For Now.”

President Trump was asked in an interview that aired on [Fox News Sunday Morning Futures](#)  [Video](#) (7/1, Bartiromo, 1.79M) about Russia investigation. Trump said, “So, I have this country running like a top, Mike Pompeo is doing great.” He said, “We have a great group of people” and “the one thing I want to stay uninvolved in at least for now I may get involved but I have been told by so many people don’t get involved.” He said, “There’s no collusion with me ...honestly it is a disgrace but I purposely said I’m not getting involved” and “you know, they found nothing.” He said, “By the way, this is the most transparent thing ever done with the White House... I think I gave them a million 400,000 documents I told them don’t even read them; there’s no Russia mentioned or anything like that.”

Judge Rules Rosenstein’s Order Gives Mueller Wide Investigative Latitude.

The [Washington Times](#) (7/1, Scarborough, 460K) reports that understanding the reason special counsel Robert Mueller has expanded his investigation beyond the 2016 presidential race “may require perusing a federal judge’s opinion on June 26 in the Paul Manafort case.” District Court Judge T.S. Ellis III “dissected Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein’s May 2017 appointment order to Mr. Mueller,” and “concluded that the prosecutor is empowered to look at virtually any Russian contact.” According to Ellis, Rosenstein’s guidelines “state that Mr. Mueller is to investigate any links between the Russian government and Trump campaign associates,” which means “indirect links” or “potential links,” giving Mueller “wide latitude when deciding whether to target a Trump person.”

Judge Extends Program Paying For Hurricane Maria Victims' Hotel Stays.


The [CBS Weekend News](#)  Video (7/1, story 11, 0:30, Quijano, 5.32M) reported that Hurricane Maria evacuees living in hotels have gotten a "short reprieve" as a federal judge "temporarily extended the program that's been paying for their stay." The program was "set to expire at midnight Sunday, but will now end on Tuesday."

Private Equity Group Offer High-Interest Loans To Cash-Strapped Americans.

The [Washington Post](#) (7/1, Whoriskey, 15.68M) reports that the company Mariner Finance "enables some of the nation's wealthiest investors and investment funds to make money offering high-interest loans to cash-strapped Americans." The company "is owned and managed by a \$11.2 billion private equity fund controlled by Warburg Pincus, a storied New York firm," whose president is Timothy F. Geithner, "who, as treasury secretary in the Obama administration, condemned predatory lenders." The Post says the market for "consumer installment loans," which Mariner and its competitors serve, has grown rapidly in recent years, particularly as new federal regulations have curtailed payday lending, according to the Center for

Financial Services Innovation, a nonprofit research group. Private equity firms, with billions to invest, have taken significant stakes in the growing field.” Mariner “stands out for the frequent use of mass-mailed checks, which allows customers to accept a high-interest loan on an impulse — just sign the check.”

Median Prime For A Single-Family Home In San Francisco Bay Area Is \$935,000.


The [CBS Weekend News](#)  Video (7/1, story 8, 2:10, Quijano, 5.32M) reported that “a recent report says the median price for a single-family home in the [San Francisco] Bay area is \$935,000. In the city it’s even higher.” CBS (Strassmann) added that market “is fueled by thousands of well-paid tech workers who have driven up the median price of a San Francisco home to \$1.6 million, the highest in the country. And while housing prices are rising faster than incomes nationwide, nowhere is it more evident than in the Bay area, where home values have soared a staggering 64% over the last five years.”

High Schools Clamp Down On Student Journalists Covering Sensitive Subjects.

The [New York Times](#) (7/1, Peiser, 19.33M) reports that high schools

across the nation have been pushing back against student journalists "who have reported on sensitive subjects, like the reaction to school shootings and adolescent sexuality." Since a 1988 Supreme Court ruling "that a Missouri school district had acted lawfully in removing a two-page spread on divorce and teenage pregnancy from a student newspaper, administrators have been able to censor work in school publications that they consider poorly written or 'inconsistent with the shared values of a civilized social order.'" The Times cites a number of examples but also notes that in some places, "student reporters have delved into difficult subjects without interference or complaint from administrators."

Seattle Bans Plastic Straws, Utensils In Restaurants.

NBC Nightly News  Video (7/1, story 8, 2:30, Jackson, 8.26M) reported that Seattle on Sunday joined "the growing list of cities banning plastic straws and plastic forks and knives in local restaurants. They're almost never recycled, meaning they end up in landfills, creating more of a pollution problem." NBC (Fryer) added that "28 cities around the country that have banned or limited plastic straws or are considering it. California and Hawaii are even exploring statewide policies."

Murdoch Turning Much Of The Company He Built Over To Disney.

The Washington Post (7/1, Ellison, 15.68M) reports that 21st Century Fox and News Corp. founder and co-executive chairman Rupert Murdoch is "selling the bulk of the company to Disney." It is "a seminal moment for Murdoch, who is turning over the power to run the company he has spent his career building." The Post adds that with President Trump's election, Murdoch is "at the height of his political influence in the United States, a position he has long sought. Murdoch has a direct line to Trump and close relationships with several Fox News personalities who act as unofficial advisers to the White House." Murdoch and the President "talk weekly and sometimes daily, according to people close to both men." Moreover, with "former Fox News executive and Sean Hannity confidant Bill Shine...expected to take the job of White House deputy chief of staff in charge of communications," it "only adds to the personal connections between Trump and the Murdoch-controlled news network."

In an editorial, the New York Times (7/1, 19.33M) questions the speed with which the Justice Department approved the Disney-Fox deal, saying it took "about half the time that regulators usually need to evaluate deals of this size." Noting that the Department "spent nearly two years investigating AT&T's acquisition of Time Warner and bringing an ultimately unsuccessful lawsuit against the deal," the Times says that while the Administration "has denied that politics plays a role in its antitrust enforcement decisions," it is "hard not to be skeptical of the possible motivations behind the Justice Department's approach to these deals."

Professors Oppose Stricter Work Requirements For SNAP.

In an op-ed for the New York Times (7/1, 19.33M), Sarah Bowen, Sinikka Elliott And Annie Hardison-Moody, professors who have conducted a study on child hunger, write that the nation's policies "have long reflected, imperfectly, the moral imperative that children deserve adequate food. Until now." Although SNAP already includes work requirements for able-bodied adults without children, the House-passed farm bill "an even harsher policy and extends it to parents of school-age children. It would require that most adults provide monthly proof that they are working or enrolled in at least 20 hours of work force training per week in order to receive support" or risk being locked out of the program for three years. They note that the Senate version does not include the requirement "that will leave more kids hungry," and argue that while President Trump "offered his support," for stricter work requirements, the program "should not be restricted" but "expanded, so that fewer families — and especially kids — are hungry."

WPost Welcomes Transfer Of Background Checks From OPM To DOD.

In an editorial, the Washington Post (7/1, 15.68M) says the Administration's proposal to transfer responsibility for background investigations for security clearances from the OPM to the Defense Department is change that is "a long time coming." The Post cites criticism of OPM's "slow processing of background checks" as well as "security concerns" stemming from the agency's handling of the investigations and says the "transfer of security-clearance

responsibilities makes sense.” However, the Post says Defense Department must “address these concerns and ensure that the background-check process is efficient, secure and accurate going forward.”

WSJournal Criticizes Individual, Corporate Tax Hikes In New Jersey.

A Wall Street Journal (7/1, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) editorial criticizes New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy and State Senate leader Steve Sweeney for agreeing to increase New Jersey’s state’s income tax on residents making more than \$5 million and the corporate rate on companies with more than \$1 million in income, giving the state the fourth highest income tax rate on individuals and the second highest corporate rate in the nation.

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"Your Credit Card Will Pay For The Next Recession." The New York Times (7/1, 19.33M) says in an editorial that Federal Reserve forecasters' "median prediction is that the federal funds rate is headed to 3.4 percent by the end of 2020 from the current 1.9 percent," meaning consumers will be "paying more to get a mortgage, a new-car loan or to carry a balance on your credit card. How much more? Possibly enough to absorb whatever extra income you might be enjoying from lower tax rates or higher wages." The Fed's job of keeping "inflation in check by raising rates," has been "made more urgent by the Republicans' \$1.5 trillion tax giveaway to the wealthy and corporations." Now, "Trump supporters who benefited the least from the Republican tax cut...will now have to pay the bulk of the bill to mitigate the damage it caused to the economy."

"The Disney-Fox Deal Sails Through, A Bit Too Easily."

In an editorial, the New York Times (7/1, 19.33M) questions the speed with which the Justice Department approved the Disney-Fox deal, saying it took "about half the time that regulators usually need to evaluate deals of this size." Noting that the Department "spent nearly two years investigating AT&T's acquisition of Time Warner and bringing an ultimately unsuccessful lawsuit against the deal," the Times says that while the Administration "has denied that politics plays a role in its antitrust enforcement decisions," it is "hard not to be skeptical of the possible motivations behind the Justice Department's approach to these deals."

Washington Post.

"This Piece Of Trump's Federal Shake-Up Has Been A Long Time Coming. Get It Right." In an editorial, the Washington Post (7/1, 15.68M) says the Administration's proposal to transfer responsibility for background investigations for security clearances from the OPM to the Defense Department is change that is "a long time coming." The Post cites criticism of OPM's "slow processing of background checks" as well as "security concerns" stemming from the agency's handling of the investigations and says the "transfer of security-clearance responsibilities makes sense." However, the Post says Defense Department must "address these concerns and ensure that the background-check process is efficient, secure and accurate going forward."

"The Malaria Fight Stalls As Children Die By The Hundreds Of Thousands."

A Washington Post (7/1, 15.68M) editorial says that while the number of malaria cases and deaths have declined steadily for a decade and a half as "global public-health officials have been at war" with the disease, the "battle shows signs of stalling." In 2016, "the number of malaria cases went up to 215 million, from 210 million the year before." The Post says that the fight against malaria will be won "by action on many fronts. A stall, after so much promise, would be terrible and costly."

"What Are The Park Police Hiding?"

A Washington Post (7/1, 15.68M) criticizes the "epic stonewalling campaign" by US Park Police concerning Park Police officers' fatal shooting of Bijan Ghaisar, "a young accountant in Northern Virginia who appeared to pose no threat to them or anyone else." The Post says "it has been 225 days – and counting" and the Park Police response "has been characterized by brazen arrogance and in-your-face unaccountability on a grand scale." The Post concludes that "after so many months of official nonresponsiveness, there is one overarching question the public is entitled to ask: What are the police trying to hide?"

Wall Street Journal.

"The War On Admissions Testing." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (7/1, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) takes issue with a growing movement to eliminate the ACT and SAT tests for college admissions. The Journal argues that although no test is ideal, the ACT and SAT are good predictors of how a student will perform in college.

"New Jersey's Tax Gift To Florida."

A Wall Street Journal (7/1, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) editorial criticizes New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy and State Senate leader Steve Sweeney for agreeing to increase New Jersey's state's income tax on residents making more than \$5 million and the corporate rate on

companies with more than \$1 million in income, giving the state the fourth highest income tax rate on individuals and the second highest corporate rate in the nation.

“North Korea Keeps Enriching Uranium.”

A Wall Street Journal (7/1, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) editorial says evidence of North Korea’s continuing nuclear-fuel production suggests Pyongyang intends to drag out open-ended talks with the US for as long as possible in hopes of extracting new concessions along the way. The Journal says if President Trump does not call Kim Jong-un out on these activities, then Kim will conclude that he can get away with this behavior.

The Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

Trump Cites Threat Of Auto Tariffs As His Biggest Leverage

Facebook Gave Firms Special Access To Users' Personal Data

North Korea Expands Key Missile-Manufacturing Plant

Taiwan's Technology Secrets Come Under Assault From China

New York Times:

Supreme Court Defeat For Unions Upends A Liberal Money Base

Bulwark Against An Abortion Ban? Medical Advances

In Denmark, Harsh New Laws For Immigrant 'Ghettos'

Leftist Wins Mexico Presidency In Landslide With Mandate To Reshape Nation

As Bolton Says North Korea Could Disarm In A Year, Reality Lags

Promises

Behind Lincoln Center's White Travertine Facade: Infighting And Indecision

Washington Post:

Unsolicited Checks Can Be A Lifeline — And An Albatross

Trump Stays Firm On Trade As Foreign Tariffs Kick In

Democrats' Bad Week Highlights A Big Rift

Two Bristols, Two Fiscal Realities

Mexico Turns Left In Election

Emails Reveal Ties Between Top EPA Aides And Lobbyists

Financial Times:

Amlo Seals Comfortable Victory In Mexico Election

[EU Warns Of \\$300BN Hit To US Over Car Import Tariffs](#)

[Alphabet Adds To Transport Bets With Scooter Deal](#)

[Activist Loeb Demands More Urgency At 'Complacent' Nestlé](#)

Washington Times:

[Swing-Vote Collins Keeps Open Mind On Trump's Supreme Court Pick Despite Leftist Pressure](#)

[Political Pickle: Supreme Court Vacancy Puts Red-State Democrats In A Big Campaign Quandary](#)

[Trump's 'Down The Road' Deadline To Lift North Korea Sanctions Frustrates Nations Eager For Trade](#)

[Trump's Pressure Against Regime Adds Strength To Iran's Largest Dissident Group](#)

[Judge: Rosenstein's 'Any Links' Mandate Empowers Mueller To Look At Virtually Any Russian Contact](#)

[After Trump Yields On Family Separation, Immigration Activists Demand End To Detentions, ICE](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Severe Weather; Bahamas-Boat Explosion; Idaho-Man Goes On Stabbing Spree; Trump-SCOTUS Pick; France-Murderer Escapes Prison; Mexico-Elections; India-Bus Accident; Oregon-Police Shooting; Australia-Shark Bites Woman; Portland-Protest Becomes Riot; China-Road Collapses; Reagan National Airport-United Express Flight Forced To Deplane; Food Recall-Wishbone Italian Dressing; Best Buy Stops Selling CDs; Police Lip Sync.

CBS: Severe Weather; Wildfires; Bahamas-Boat Explosion; Trump-SCOTUS Pick; Reagan National Airport-United Express Flight Forced To Deplane; Maryland-Capital Gazette Memorial; US-Russia Relations; Mexico-Elections; San Francisco-Housing Market; Portland-Protest Becomes Riot; Thailand-Missing Boys' Soccer Team; Puerto Rico-Hurricane Maria Evacuees; Long Island-Father Son Sock Business.

NBC: Idaho-Man Goes On Stabbing Spree; Severe Weather; Weather Report; Wildfires; Bahamas-Boat Explosion; Trump-SCOTUS Pick; Mexico-Elections; Plastic Straw Bans; Opioid Crisis-France's Solution; France-Murderer Escapes Prison; Family's Monster Truck Business.

Network TV At A Glance:

Severe Weather – 7 minutes, 35 seconds

Trump-SCOTUS Pick – 7 minutes, 30 seconds

Bahamas-Boat Explosion – 4 minutes, 50 seconds

Mexico-Elections – 3 minutes, 0 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Trump-SCOTUS Pick; Idaho-Man Goes On Stabbing Spree; NBA News.

CBS: Idaho-Man Goes On Stabbing Spree; Severe Weather; Wildfires; Mexico-Elections; NBA News.

FOX: NBA News; Congress-SCOTUS Pick; Mexico-Elections.

NPR: Trump-SCOTUS Pick; Idaho-Man Goes On Stabbing Spree; Guatemala-Volcano-Health Issues; Canada-Tariffs On US.

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

John Oliver:

Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy's retirement "is obviously huge news, and for anyone who believes that the Constitution protects things like reproductive and LGBT rights, this is bad. And we know it's bad because Donald Trump Jr. was happy, tweeting 'OMG just when you thought this week couldn't get more lit, I give you Anthony Kennedy's retirement from #scotus.' And I'm afraid I'm going to have to disagree with Mr. Junior on this, because I personally don't think this was lit at all. I mean, it's obvs cray af. No one is denying that, fam. But I would argue that this news was neither lit nor on fleek. Nor was it three fire emojis. Now, granted, I am still a little shook, jsyk, but I personally believe Kennedy's retirement is super werpt. And I'm happy to announce that, in saying that, all the slang words I just used are now officially dead forever. And that includes 'werpt,' a term that doesn't even exist, but which I have preemptively ruined just in case."

John Oliver:

"The big question here is, who is going to replace Kennedy? And the Administration has made their plans pretty clear, with Mike Pence tweeting, 'Thank you to justice Anthony Kennedy for your long career of service. Trump will nominate a strong conservative in the tradition of the late Justice Scalia.' Which is a little weird. You don't generally stand up at someone's retirement party and say, 'Thank you for everything you did for this company, Robert, and rest assured that we will replace you with someone exactly like that other guy who used to work here that we always liked much more than you.'"

John Oliver:

"There's a fundamental problem there, and that is that Republicans have 51 seats in the Senate, and they need 51 votes to confirm the new justice. So unless Democrats can convince their entire party to oppose the nomination and persuade a number of Republicans over to their side, they are...out of luck, meaning it's time for Democrats' favorite game: 'Hope Susan Collin Flips And Be Disappointed When She Doesn't!' It's America's most depressing game show."

John Oliver:

"I'm happy to say, there is some good news. It turns out there's a

constitutional loophole that allows Democrats to – I’m obviously lying here. There’s no good news. Everything is terrible now.”

John Oliver:

“Barring some massive screw-up from Trump, the only thing anyone can really do is vote. And there are actually two key elections you should really try and vote in: One in 2016 and one in 2014. Because that is what got us into this mess.”

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LEADING THE NEWS

Hundreds Of Thousands Protest Administration's Immigration Policy, Separation Of Families.

ABC World News Tonight (6/30, lead story, 2:50, Llamas, 4.58M) reported in its lead story that "we begin tonight with the massive nationwide protests against the President's immigration policy. Tens of thousands of protesters in more than 700 demonstrations, like this one in Chicago, in cities and towns from coast to coast, in every state, urging President Trump to reunite the families separated at the southern border. Part of the fallout from his zero-tolerance immigration policy."

In its lead story, the CBS Weekend News (6/30, lead story, 2:20, Ninan, 2.62M) reported, "Americans across the country are making their voices heard this Fourth of July weekend at loud rallies from coast to coast. They're demanding that thousands of immigrant children be set free and reunited with their parents. And President

Trump may have heard. He tweeted this afternoon that people coming to this country illegally must be escorted out." CBS correspondent Kenneth Craig added, "New York's protest brought an estimated 15,000 to the streets of lower Manhattan over the Trump Administration's zero-tolerance policy on illegal border crossings." Craig also mentioned that HHS said it has custody of more than 2,000 immigrant children separated from their parents.

NBC Nightly News (6/30, lead story, 2:35, Diaz-Balart, 12.78M) reported in its lead story, "Hundreds of thousands of people in communities across the country mobilized today for [im]migrant families, protesting President Trump's policy that separated children from their loved ones. Tonight, more than 2,000 of those children remain in detention centers, in a country that's not their own, far from their parents. The White House mostly silent on the issue today."

The Washington Post (6/30, Lang, Zauzmer, Natanson, 15.68M) reported that on Saturday, some 750 "Families Belong Together' rallies were planned throughout the country in every state – from big cities such as Boston, Chicago and New

York to tiny ones such as Antler, N.D., which has a population of 27.” Organizers said about 50,000 people gathered in Washington, DC, although the Post indicated the total number may have been somewhat less than that. All these protesters had one message: “End President Trump’s ‘zero tolerance’ immigration policy, which has split children from their parents and detained families crossing the southern U.S. border.” The article added that whenever “the government, Border Patrol agents or the Trump administration” was mentioned, “the crowd erupted into chants of ‘shame, shame, shame.’” And “as they passed the Trump International Hotel, protesters booed and chanted ‘vote him out.’”

The New York Times (6/30, Yoon-Hendricks, Greenberg, 19.33M) reported that galvanized “by what they view as the cruel treatment of [im]migrants seeking refuge in the United States from violence in their home countries, the crowds turned out Saturday bearing homemade signs that read ‘Abolish ICE’ – the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency – and ‘Zero tolerance for family separation.’” The article said that although “Washington was the political epicenter of the protests, similar scenes unfolded in cities around the country, including large, border cities like El Paso, state capitals like Salt Lake City and Atlanta, and smaller, interior towns like Redding, Calif.” The piece added that for the most part, the protests were peaceful, with only a few arrests.

USA Today (6/30, Hayes, 11.4M) reported on the rallies in all 50 states, but asked, “now what? Will the issue and the outrage fade into the background or help lead to a pivotal moment in the debate over immigration in the U.S.?” A spokesman for MoveOn.org, “one of the organizations behind the nationwide rallies,” said, “I’ve never seen so many people that so deeply care about immigration. This is unlike anything I’ve seen. It’s just a huge amount of opportunity and we have to ride this wave to making change.” The piece added that “activists plan to pressure members of Congress to hold town halls to discuss immigration and force leaders to take a stand when confronted by their constituents.”

The Wall Street Journal (6/30, Raice, Barrett, Duehren, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) reported that protesters said they were angry at President Trump’s actions on immigration, and insisted that the world needs to see a different picture of the US. They carried signs saying, “No

child should be kept in a cage” and “Keep families together” and “Immigrants make America great.”

The Arizona Republic (6/30, Carranza, Larson, Steinbach, Janetsky, 1.21M) reported that some “800 people gathered outside the state Capitol building in Phoenix. Many carried signs urging the administration to bring families back together.” They encountered “small groups of counterprotesters with megaphones. Some engaged, but the event was mostly peaceful.”

Also covering the story were the Orlando (FL) Sentinel (6/30, Santana, 593K), the Atlanta Journal-Constitution (6/30, Hansen, 1.09M), the Asbury Park (NJ) Press (6/30, Mickle, 386K), and Newsday (NY) (6/30, Chayes, 1.52M).

Trump Administration Accused Of Separating Immigrant Families Who Sought Asylum At Ports Of Entry.

The Los Angeles Times (7/1, Esquivel, 4.03M) reports that “the practice of separating families appears to have begun accelerating last year, long before zero tolerance was announced in the spring. Among these cases, according to records and interviews, are many that happened at ports of entry” as immigrants sought asylum in the US. The article adds, “Administration officials have said repeatedly that asylum seekers who don’t want to be separated from their children should present themselves at a port of entry. Doing so is the legal way to ask for asylum, they said.” However, court documents “describe numerous cases in recent months in which families were separated after presenting themselves at a port of entry to ask for asylum.” Attorneys contend that this happened even when asylum seekers had identification and documents proving they were the children’s parents.

DOJ Files Documents Which Indicate Administration May Want To Detain Immigrant Families Longer Than The Current Legal Limit.

The Washington Post (6/29, Barrett, 15.68M) reported that the Justice Department on Friday revealed “plans to detain migrant families together in custody rather than release them, according to a new court filing that suggests such detentions could last longer than the 20 days envisioned by a court settlement.” The article added that “the filing comes as the Justice Department seeks to navigate two different court edicts – an injunction issued this week by a federal judge in San Diego that required the government to begin reuniting the roughly 2,000 migrant children still separated from their families, and an older court settlement

in federal court in Los Angeles that requires the immigration agencies to release minors in their custody if they are held for more than 20 days.”

Politico (6/29, Gerstein, 3.51M) reported that only “days after President Donald Trump announced that his administration would ask a federal court to permit detention of immigrant families by modifying a longstanding court settlement, Justice Department lawyers told the Los Angeles-based judge handling the case Friday that no change to the decree may be needed.” Attorneys for the government contend that “a separate injunction a federal judge in San Diego issued Tuesday barring family separations effectively wipes out provisions in the decades-old Flores agreement that have been determined to bar detention of most children in immigration custody for more than 20 days.” They wrote, “The rulings work together to permit detention of parents with their minor children with whom they are apprehended.”

The Hill (6/29, Bowden, 2.71M) reported that the Administration may seek to “detain migrant families together for months at detention facilities as they await prosecution for illegal entry, according to a court filing from the Justice Department.” While the filing did not specify the potential length of time immigrant families would be detained, immigration proceedings typically take months.

Administration Still Dealing With “Fallout” From Zero Tolerance Policy. The AP (7/1, Long, Alonso-Zaldivar) reports that in recent Senate testimony, HHS Secretary Alex Azar “could barely conceal his discomfort” as a Democratic senator asked “whether his agency had a role in designing the Trump administration’s ‘zero tolerance’ policy that caused” immigrant children to be separated from their parents. Azar responded, “We deal with the children once they’re given to us. ... So we don’t – we are not the experts on immigration.” The article says separating families “while sidelining the agency responsible for caring for the children was only one example of a communication breakdown in the federal government that left immigrant children in limbo, parents in the dark about their whereabouts and enraged Americans across the country.” The Administration “is still dealing with the fallout: It’s still not clear how officials will implement the policy or comply with a court order requiring that families be reunited within 30 days.

Instead, the administration is hoping Congress will fix the mess.”

Congress Leaves For Recess Without Voting On Bill To End Separation Of Immigrant Families. USA Today (6/29, Kelly, 11.4M) reported that “House and Senate leaders had expressed hope that Congress could act quickly this week to pass a narrow bill that would allow migrant children to remain with their parents at detention centers beyond the current 20-day limit,” but “both chambers adjourned Thursday without a solution. They will return on July 9.”

Top House Dems Want HHS-OIG, Other Agency Watchdogs To Investigate Administration’s Zero Tolerance Policy. The Hill (6/29, Weixel, 2.71M) reported that “top House Democrats are asking federal agency watchdogs for a broad investigation” into the Administration’s zero-tolerance immigration policies, “including the separation of children from their parents, as well as the recent executive order intended to partially roll them back.” The lawmakers sent a letter Friday to the inspectors general of HHS, DHS, and the Department of Justice asking for a review of the Administration’s “entire process for planning and implementing its immigration plan.” The letter was signed by Reps. Elijah E. Cummings (D-MD), Jerry Nadler (D-NY), Bennie Thompson (D-MS), Bobby Scott (D-VA), and Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ), the “top Democrats on the House Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, the Judiciary, Homeland Security, Education and the Workforce, and Energy and Commerce.”

Dems In Connecticut Denied Access To Immigrant Child Separated From Parents. Vox (6/29, Kirby, 1.66M) reported that on Friday, Sen. Chris Murphy (D-CT), Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), and Rep. Joe Courtney (D-CT) sought “to visit a child separated from their family who was being housed in a nonprofit facility in Groton, Connecticut.” But HHS “denied the lawmakers access, according to Murphy.” He tweeted, “The perverse secrecy of child separation should concern us all.” Murphy added, “HHS’ excuse was that we need to give 14 days notice. ... What?? 14 days of forced separation from your parent can traumatize a kid for life. And we aren’t asking to see nuclear codes – we just wanted 10 min to make sure the child is ok.” An HHS official “said that a visit from the members had not been approved, and confirmed that HHS requires a two-week notification, at minimum, to make sure tours

don't interfere with the care of unaccompanied alien children."

Court Documents Allege Border Agent Wished Immigrant "Happy Mother's Day" After Informing Her Of Impending Separation From Daughter. The Arizona Republic (6/29, Ruelas, 1.21M) reported, "A Guatemalan woman said in a federal complaint filed this week that a Border Patrol agent in an Arizona detention facility, after informing her that her daughter would be taken away, mockingly wished her a happy Mother's Day." The American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts is representing the woman in the lawsuit. Attorneys "say they've filed an emergency lawsuit to immediately reunite" the woman "with her daughter, who is only identified in court filings by the initials S.K. They argue that the continued separation violates the due process rights, as well as the Constitution's guarantee of equal protection."

Immigrant Families Still Separated As "Outrage" Over Zero Tolerance Policy Grows. ABC World News Tonight (6/29, story 6, 0:40, Muir, 6.53M) reported that despite the growing "outrage" over the Trump Administration's zero-tolerance policy, immigrant children remain separated from their parents. Congress left for recess without passing an immigration bill. The segment mentioned that during her last visit to the border, First Lady Melania Trump was shown "pictures of the six-year-old boy left alone in the desert, possibly by smugglers." That boy has since been transferred to HHS' custody.

Some 2,000 Immigrant Children Remain Separated From Their Parents Despite Judge's Order To Reunite Them. The New York Times (6/30, Correal, 19.33M) reported that despite "protests being held around the country on Saturday to demand the reunification of parents and children separated at the border, progress on putting families back together has been painfully slow." The article said in spite of "a federal judge's order requiring reunification within 30 days, more than 2,000 children remain scattered across 17 states, including some 300 in New York." The piece added that "their parents too have been sent around the country – to detention centers in Arizona, Colorado and as far away as Washington State." While HHS "cit[ed] the possibility that human traffickers might pose as parents [and] said that the government intends to aggressively 'vet' those who wish to gain custody of children," the Times said officials "declined to say how many

children had been reunited with their relatives since President Trump ended the separation policy with an executive order."

Sponsors, Parents Reportedly Face High Transport Fees, Red Tape Before They Can Be Reunited With Immigrant Children. The New York Times (7/1, Jordan, 19.33M) reports on the transport fees and red tape facing the sponsors and parents of immigrant children. The article mentions that "Brenda, a Salvadoran [im]migrant who was separated from her 7-year-old son Kevin at the border on May 27, was charged \$576.20 to cover the boy's airfare from Miami to Virginia. His escort collected the money order at Washington Dulles airport on Friday upon handing over the child to his mother." This is just one of the many "hurdles" sponsors and immigrant parents must overcome in order to be reunited with children. The piece adds that HHS' "Office of Refugee Resettlement, which has official custody of migrant children under detention and establishes conditions for releasing them, has made it clear that the requirements are intended to make sure children are not released to traffickers, and will be well cared for in their new homes."

CNN (6/29, 82.6M) featured footage of Brenda's reunion with her son at Dulles.

Advocates In New York Seek To Teach Separated Immigrant Children About Their Legal Rights. The Wall Street Journal (7/1, West, Campo-Flores, Texas, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) reports that advocates in New York are attempting to teach immigrant children separated from their parents about their legal rights. They must use creative methods because many of these children are too young to understand the concept, and some are illiterate. The article mentions that the children are in HHS' custody, while their parents are being held by Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Guatemalan Girl Reunited With Mother After Two-Month Separation. The Washington Post (7/1, Rozsa, 15.68M) reports on the reunification of a 7-year-old Guatemalan girl who was separated from her family for almost two months by US border officials. The child's mother, Buena Ventura Martin-Godinez, said, "I'm so happy, so happy. ... I didn't know when I would see her again." She added, "She's happy now, but she wants her daddy," who remains in detention and faces deportation, adding, "She told me she never, ever wants to be away from her family again."

The AP (7/1, Replogle, Kennedy) reports, "The little girl was in the custody of a child welfare agency in Michigan and made heartbreaking calls to her mother, asking when they'd be reunited."

Guatemalan Mother Detained In Arizona Begins Road Trip To New York City To Find Her Children. The Arizona Republic (7/1, Oza, 1.21M) spotlights Yeni Maricela Gonzalez Garcia, a Guatemalan immigrant who spent a month separated from her three children while detained, who is now driving with a volunteer to New York City to find her children.

Children Representing Themselves In Immigration Courts. CNN (6/30, Kopan, 82.6M) reported on immigrant children who are coming before immigration judges to "fight for permission to stay in the country." The article features an immigration attorney whose client was a "crying toddler" that "frazzled" the judge because "she couldn't believe it." CNN added, "Toddlers and infants do, in fact, appear before judges in the system to defend themselves against deportation." The piece cites immigration law experts who "have long opposed the idea of children being able to represent themselves."

Immigration Playing "Outsized" Role In Arizona's Midterms. The AP (7/1) reports, "The outrage sparked by the sights, sounds and stories of children separated from parents at the U.S.-Mexico border underscores the outsized role immigration will play in the midterms in Arizona." The article says candidates from both parties are emphasizing immigration as they campaign. The piece adds that for many Arizonans, "the immigration issue is personal," because data indicate "more than 13 percent of Arizona's population as of 2015 were individuals who were born in another country."

Following Visits To Immigration Detention Centers, It Remains To Be Seen What Action First Lady Will Take. The AP (6/30, Kellman) reported on First Lady Melania Trump's recent visits to the border during which she toured immigrant detention centers. The article said, "Now the question is what she does with that knowledge – and how she meshes it with her dislike for dividing up families and a concurrent belief in strong borders." Stephanie Grisham, a spokeswoman for Mrs. Trump, "says more border visits or talks with lawmakers are possible, but it's not clear what lessons the first lady took from her visits and what she'll communicate to her husband." Grisham added, "She cares about

children deeply. ... She also believes in strong border laws and treating everybody equally."

Trump Criticizes Dems Who Are Pushing For ICE To Be Abolished. The New York Times (7/1, Cochrane, 19.33M) reports that President Trump is attacking "Democratic lawmakers who have called for abolishing Immigration and Customs Enforcement, seeking to seize political advantage on an issue that has put him on the defensive for weeks and offer a winning message for Republicans facing a forbidding midterm election." During an interview with Fox News' "Sunday Morning Futures," Trump said, "You get rid of ICE, you're going to have a country that you're going to be afraid to walk out of your house." The article adds that Trump also urged "Democratic candidates to embrace demands to dissolve the agency, saying that doing so would doom the party at the polls. 'They're going to get beaten so badly,'" he said.

The Washington Times (7/1, Boyer, 460K) reports Trump "said Sunday that Democrats 'will never win another election' if they keep pushing to abolish Immigration and Customs Enforcement."

In The Face Of Growing Criticism, Trump Defends ICE. On its front page, the Washington Post (6/30, A1, Nakamura, 15.68M) reported that President Trump "opened a new front in the immigration debate, diverting attention away from his administration's treatment of undocumented immigrants to a broader fight over the federal agency charged with detaining and deporting them." According to the Post, the President in a pair of tweets "forcefully defended the performance of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and lambasted Democrats for pushing a 'radical left' agenda to abolish it, even though only a handful have publicly supported doing so." The article mentioned that once immigrant children are separated from their parents, they are turned over to HHS.

ICE Acting Director Accused Of Perpetuating Falsehood About Zero Tolerance Policy. The Huffington Post (6/29, Fang, 4.32M) reported that on Friday, Thomas Homan, acting director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, "perpetuated President Donald Trump's lie that Congress is responsible for the Trump administration's zero tolerance policy of separating young, undocumented immigrant children from their parents at the U.S.-Mexico border." Homan said, "We are enforcing the laws that they enacted. ... We're out, doing our sworn

oath, enforcing the laws that they enacted, and they're going to vilify us for doing it."

ICE Raids Reportedly Separating Children From Immigrant Parents. The Washington Post (6/30, 15.68M) reported that while the Administration promises "to reunite families separated by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) at the U.S. border, a similar crisis continues unabated within the country's interior, where children are separated from their undocumented parents with little scrutiny and increasing frequency." ICE has, in recent months, "carried out the three biggest workplace immigration raids of the past decade, including one on June 5 at a nursery here in rural Ohio, where 114 gardeners, florists and other workers were detained and put into court proceedings for deportation." Many had lived for several years in a nearby "trailer park of 74 homes known as Little Mexico, where now aid workers estimate that more than 90 children are missing one parent and at least 20 are left with no parent at all."

Advocates Say Separated Immigrant Parents Are Failing Asylum Screenings Because They Are Too Distraught. The Huffington Post (6/30, Chapin, 4.32M) reported that advocates say immigrant parents who have been separated from their children "are too devastated to prepare for their court hearings. Instead, they replay the moment their kids were taken away by Border Patrol, worry about their children's well-being, and ask repeatedly where their sons and daughters are. In some cases, they simply weep." One activist said "over half of the roughly 20 parents she spoke with on Thursday did not pass their 'credible fear' interviews – a process that determines a person's asylum eligibility." She is convinced the parents "are too distressed about their children to effectively tell an asylum officer why they fled their country and could be killed upon return."

Some Concerned Immigrant Children Separated From Parents Could Be Put Up For Adoption. The Arizona Republic (6/29, White, 1.21M) reported, "Since the Trump administration's zero-tolerance border policy led to the separation of more than 2,300 immigrant children from their relatives since early May, some have wondered: Could these kids end up being adopted by American families?" Some immigrants allege they heard border agents say some of the separated children would be adopted after their parents were deported. HHS "has insisted that

separated minors will soon be reunited with their relatives. Foster and adoption agencies have said separated children need to be with their families and will never be put up for adoption." However, "there are a number of scenarios that could complicate that."

The Detroit Free Press (6/30, Baldas, 1.21M) reported that Bethany Christian Services in Michigan insists that separated immigrant parents and children are being reunited. Bethany said the more than 50 children in the state "will not be adopted. These children have families, and we will continue to pursue reunification with their families."

Nonprofit Says Its Database Could Help Unite Separated Immigrant Children With Parents. The Dallas Morning News (6/29, Solis, 1.05M) reported, "A nonprofit has created a database that could help more than 2,000 immigrant children be swiftly reconnected with their parents even as lawyers and advocates become increasingly frustrated about not knowing where many of the children are." The article said this "database will allow parents and legal representatives who are trying to locate separated children to submit inquiries by phone and email," and "from there, the Vera Institute of Justice, a New York-based nonprofit, and its partners hope to connect the families with attorneys to work on the immigrants' legal cases."

Experts Say More Central American Children Are Immigrating To The US Because Of Violence, Lack Of Opportunities. The Washington Post (6/29, Schwartz, 15.68M) examined why so many children from Central America are coming to the US. Experts attribute this trend to "economic factors and violence and insecurity. The first group includes the lack of economic opportunity, including a lack of jobs or inadequate opportunities for education. The second group includes violence and victimization, not just by gangs, other criminal groups and state security forces but at home as well."

More Commentary. The New York Times (6/29, 19.33M) said in an editorial that separating families caught illegally crossing the US-Mexico border exemplifies "cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation." The Times added, "The Trump administration has committed a gross offense," and urged all Americans to "demand that it promptly reunite these children with their parents."

Author and former Border Patrol agent Francisco Cantú wrote in a New York Times (6/30, 19.33M) op-ed that it is crucial “to understand that the crisis of separation manufactured by the Trump administration is only the most visibly abhorrent manifestation of a decades-long project to create a ‘state of exception’ along our southern border.” He added, “The logic of deterrence is not unlike that of war: It has transformed the border into a state of exception where some of the most vulnerable people on earth face death and disappearance and where children are torn from their parents to send the message You are not safe here. In this sense, the situation at the border has reached a point of crisis – not one of criminality but of disregard for human life.”

Jennifer Rubin writes in the Washington Post (7/1, 15.68M) “Right Turn” blog that “President Trump is prepared to incarcerate entire families for indeterminate periods of time for what has been traditionally treated as a misdemeanor.” She argues, “This is as inhumane as it is wasteful and dangerous; rather than use resources to go after drug runners and human trafficking and other serious offenses, the administration will be spending resources to stand guard over families.”

Alexandra F. Levy, a senior staff attorney at the Human Trafficking Legal Center, wrote in a Washington Post (6/29, 15.68M) op-ed about “who stands to gain from the Trump administration’s immigration policies.” She said it is not immigrant children or their parents or even the US. Rather, it is the “two largest private prison contractors in the United States, GEO Group and CoreCivic,” which “house thousands of immigrant detainees across the country. These corporations now face allegations that they force immigrant detainees to perform unpaid labor inside their facilities.”

Sarah Lustbader, a former public defender, writes in the Washington Post (7/1, Lustbader, 15.68M) that the Administration’s defense of its family separation policy “boiled down to the following: The child’s suffering is the price the parent must pay for breaking the rules. Children are, in essence, collateral damage.” Lustbader points out, “Every day, we lock parents up for decades in our prisons regardless of how it will affect their children, and no one bats an eye.” She concludes, “We should be demanding more humanity of our system across the board – not just at the border.”

In an editorial, USA Today (7/1, 11.4M) writes, “Sometime in the not-too-distant future, the United States could face simultaneous crises, and the word of the White House would be crucial.” The editorial goes on to say that “most Americans have come to recognize Trump’s long and sordid abuse of facts,” and “in recent weeks, his falsehoods have come even faster and with greater vigor.” The editorial questions whether the White House will have the requisite credibility when that crisis comes.

Anthony Scaramucci, former White House director of communications, writes in USA Today (7/1, Scaramucci, 11.4M) that following the “child separation fiasco, President Donald Trump doesn’t have a credibility problem – but his chief of staff and the Democrats do.” Scaramucci takes issue with the “messaging” of the policy. He concludes, “The president wants to find common ground, but the ‘resistance’ is peddling false narratives to avoid making a deal,” adding, “the Democrats, not the president, have the real credibility problem.”

THE SECRETARY IN THE NEWS

Judge Strikes Down Kentucky’s Medicaid Work Rules. The New York Times (6/29, Goodnough, 19.33M) reported that US District Judge James Boasberg on Friday “blocked Kentucky’s closely watched plan to require many Medicaid recipients to work, volunteer or train for a job as a condition of coverage.” The Times said the ruling in the Kentucky case “is the first on this issue, but it will almost certainly not be the last; the question may wind up before a more conservative Supreme Court with two Trump appointees.” The Trump Administration and the state of Kentucky had argued “that Congress gave the health and human services secretary broad discretion to approve Medicaid demonstration projects. Lawyers for the administration also argued that” HHS Secretary Alex Azar “provided plenty of evidence that working improves health.” Judge Boasberg disagreed, saying, “While the ultimate decision whether to grant approval rests with the secretary, his discretion is not boundless.”

NPR (6/29, Kodjak, 3.55M) reported that in Friday’s ruling, Judge Boasberg “called the Trump administration’s approval of the program, Kentucky HEALTH, ‘arbitrary and capricious.’” He writes “that in approving Kentucky’s work

requirement proposal, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar 'never adequately considered whether Kentucky HEALTH would in fact help the state furnish medical assistance to its citizens, a central objective of Medicaid.'"

The Washington Post (6/29, Sun, Goldstein, 15.68M) reported that Boasberg's decision "sends the state's program, Kentucky HEALTH, back to the federal Department of Health and Human Services for further review." Bloomberg News (6/29, 4.46M) reported Trump's HHS department "'never adequately considered whether Kentucky Health would in fact help the state furnish medical assistance to its citizens, a central objective of Medicaid,' Boasberg wrote."

Reuters (6/29, Raymond) reported Kentucky "was the first of four states to receive approval from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to require that able-bodied Medicaid recipients work at least 80 hours a month or lose their benefits." Kentucky "said the judge had blocked the program on the 'narrow basis' that HHS failed to consider its impact on Medicaid coverage, and that the state would work with HHS to address that problem so the program could take effect." Adam Meier, secretary of Kentucky's health department, is quoted saying, "'We will have no choice but to make significant benefit reductions' without implementing the work requirements."

The Wall Street Journal (6/29, Armour, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) reported that Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Administrator Verma said, "We are conferring with the Department of Justice to chart a path forward." Verma added, "In the meantime, we will continue to support innovative, state-driven policies that are designed to advance the objectives of the Medicaid program by improving health outcomes for thousands of low-income Americans."

The AP (6/29, Beam, Alonso-Zaldivar) reported the national implications of Friday's ruling "could take a while to sort out. Officials in Arkansas have already implemented similar work requirement rules there." The drive "to expand Medicaid in GOP-led states had gotten a boost from the prospect of work requirements, which appeal to conservatives. In Virginia, work requirements are part of a compromise between Democratic Gov. Ralph Northam and Republican legislators to expand Medicaid."

The Washington Examiner (6/29, Leonard, 340K) reported the requirements "would have

gone into effect Sunday. Republican Gov. Matt Bevin had threatened to discontinue Medicaid expansion in the state, which covers more than 500,000 people, if the requirements were struck down."

Additional coverage is provided by CNN (6/29, Luhby, 82.6M), Congressional Quarterly (6/29, Subscription Publication), Forbes (6/29, Japsen, 10.34M), Fortune (6/29, 3.91M), Healthcare Finance News (6/29, 93K), The Hill (6/29, Weixel, 2.71M), the Huffington Post (6/29, Young, 4.32M), Kaiser Health News (6/29), Modern Healthcare (6/29, Subscription Publication, 239K), the Louisville (KY) Courier-Journal (6/29, 419K), Politico (6/29, Pradhan, 3.51M), Vox (6/29, 1.66M), and the Detroit Free Press (6/29, Spangler, 1.21M).

UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN

Suit Filed Against HHS Alleges "A Wide Range Of Abuses" Against Unaccompanied Minors.

USA Today (6/29, Gomez, 11.4M) reported that on Friday, several legal groups filed a lawsuit accusing HHS "of mistreating unaccompanied minors in its custody, ordering them to take psychotropic drugs without their relatives' consent and making it overly difficult to reunite them with family." The suit was filed on behalf of "five minors who allege a wide range of abuses at the hands of contractors who run shelters for Health and Human Services' Office of Refugee Resettlement." One of the children, "a 12-year-old boy from Guatemala who has been in custody since February, has allegedly been administered psychotropic drugs to treat depression that he developed while in custody." The suit says "the boy refused to continue taking the medication because it hurt his stomach, which led shelter officials to transfer him to a psychiatric institution without consulting his adult sister, who had been trying to win his release."

The Washington Post (6/29, Davis, 15.68M) reported that the lawsuit alleges the 12-year-old boy "went from being calm and cooperative to showing signs of depression brought on by 'being kept from his family,'" which had crossed into the US illegally ahead of him. Leecia Welch, an attorney for the National Center for Youth Law, one of the groups that brought the case, said,

“Basic due-process rights” are being “trampled” by the Trump Administration. She added that “parents of children are going through the ringer trying to get their kids out of these detention facilities.”

The Wall Street Journal (6/29, Lazo, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) reported that the suit is seeking class-action status. The five children are from Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Mexico. It names HHS Secretary Alex Azar and ORR Director E. Scott Lloyd as defendants.

The Hill (6/30, Anapol, 2.71M) reported that the suit was “filed Friday in a federal court in California.” The five children range in age from 12 to 17, and they all arrived in the US as unaccompanied minors. The suit “alleges that the minors have been held in ‘jail-like’ conditions and experienced ‘cruel’ practices, including being prescribed antidepressants, that may result in lifelong trauma and ‘emotional harm.’”

NBC News (6/30, Mandell, 5.76M) and Newsweek (6/30, Hutzler, 2.18M) also covered the story.

House GOP Seeks Answers From Azar About ORR. The Hill (6/29, Hellmann, 2.71M) reported that Republicans on the House Energy & Commerce Committee have sent a letter to HHS Secretary Alex Azar asking for answers about the Office of Refugee Resettlement. The article said the lawmakers “asked for answers to a series of questions about children in ORR custody, including: how many are in ORR custody as a result of being separated from their parents or families; does ORR have the resources to properly care for the high number of children being transferred to their custody; what steps is ORR taking to track and address issues of abuse within HHS funded facilities and what medications is ORR authorized to administer.” The letter stated, “Given HHS’ historical difficulties in properly caring for [the children], the committee believes that additional scrutiny of ORR is warranted at this time.”

Fake Story About HHS Losing Immigrant Children Resulted In Discovery Of Separations At The Southern Border. On its website, ABC News (6/30, Pearle, 1.85M) reported that the story about HHS losing almost 1,500 immigrant children was untrue, yet “it was enough to outrage politicians,

stir up journalists and make the public ask questions. Chasing this misleading story...helped uncover a story that many found even more troubling. And this one was real.” The article said that in April, “Steven Wagner, an official at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) who oversees programs that place unaccompanied minors with families, told a Senate committee that a department office ‘was unable to determine with certainty the whereabouts of 1,475 unaccompanied alien children’ who had been placed with sponsors living in the United States.” In May, Deputy HHS Secretary Eric Hargan “disputed what was becoming a widespread narrative, saying these children were not ‘lost’ but had simply been placed with friends and extended family members” who could not be reached. The piece added that while investigating this story, reporters uncovered the Trump Administration’s policy of separating immigrant families at the southern border.

HHS IN THE NEWS

HHS’ Severino Speaks At National Right To Life Conference. The Wichita (KS) Eagle (6/29, Burgess, 316K) reported Roger Severino, who directs the Department of Health and Human Services’ Office for Civil Rights, was the featured speaker at the National Right to Life convention Thursday, becoming the first HHS official “in recent memory” to speak at the nation’s largest anti-abortion organization. Severino said in his remarks, “Our president is fearless when it comes to life and conscience,” adding, “We’re just getting started.”

Several Mid-Level HHS Officials Reportedly Emulating Trump In Tweets. Politico (6/29, Diamond, 3.51M) profiled several “midlevel political appointees at the Health and Human Services Department who have helped shape the agency’s communications strategy – even while taking a page out of President Donald Trump’s playbook” by emulating his “taunts and gibes” on Twitter. According to Politico, the behavior “suggest[s] that some officials feel empowered to mimic the president even while representing the government to millions of taxpayers and working alongside career federal employees.” The article added that the tweeting “also raises questions about whether any officials are violating the Hatch Act, which is

intended to ban most federal personnel from bringing politics into the workplace.” The piece mentioned officials such as Gavin Smith, “an HHS staffer who identifies himself as deputy communications director,” Ximena Barreto, “a deputy communications director who worked on the Trump campaign,” and Jon Cordova, “the principal deputy assistant secretary for administration.”

CMS Looking For Chief Health Informatics Officer. MedCity News (6/29, Dietsche) reported the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services “is seeking a chief health informatics officer, according to a job posting on USAjobs.gov.” The individual chosen for the role “will develop requirements and content for health-related information technology with an initial focus on improving innovation and interoperability.”

CMS Releases Payment Data, Reveals Drug And Medical Device Company Contributions. The Washington Examiner (6/29, King, 340K) reported that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services released its 2017 payment information on Friday. Data show drug and medical device companies provided “\$8.4 billion to doctors and teaching hospitals,” that year. According to the figures, “the biggest amount, \$4.7 billion, went to research. Coming in second was \$2.82 billion for general payments, which include items such as meals, travel to speaking events, and speaking fees.”

National Guard Soldiers May Have Sleep Problems After Returning Home From The Battlefield, Research Suggests. Reuters (6/29, Weinstock) reported that research suggests “National Guard soldiers may be plagued with sleep problems when they return home from the battlefield.” The findings were published online in Sleep Health. Reuters added, “Michael Twery, director of the National Center on Sleep Disorders Research at the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute...told Reuters Health by phone that while the study was a small one and needs to be replicated in larger groups of soldiers, it ‘(lays) a foundation to help us design more definitive studies of sleep in this population.’”

Federal Officials Say Romaine Lettuce-Linked E. Coli Outbreak Is

Officially Over. The Los Angeles Times (6/29, Millman, 4.03M) reported that Federal officials have said the E. coli outbreak tied to Yuma, AZ-grown romaine lettuce is officially over. The CDC has found no “new cases from the outbreak, which started in mid-March and infected people in 36 states.” The Times reported, “Dirty irrigation canal water is expected to have caused the outbreak, Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Scott Gottlieb said Thursday, and officials are investigating how the bacteria got into the water.” Meanwhile, the CDC reported “the last E. coli case from this outbreak June 6.”

The New York Times (7/1, Jacobs, 19.33M) reports, “Samples of canal water in the Yuma area of Arizona were found to contain the same genetic strain of E. coli that caused the outbreak, Dr. Scott Gottlieb, commissioner of the federal Food and Drug Administration, said in a statement.” Dr. Gottlieb said, “More work needs to be done to determine just how and why this strain of E. coli O157: H7 could have gotten into this body of water and how that led to contamination of romaine lettuce from multiple farms.”

Emergency Departments Struggling Through Shortages Of Crucial Drugs. The New York Times (7/1, Thomas, 19.33M) reports that emergency departments nationwide are struggling with shortages of “crucial drugs like morphine, which is used to ease the pain of injuries like broken bones, or diltiazem, a heart drug.” The Times adds, “For years, drug shortages have created a behind-the-scenes scramble as pharmacists, doctors and nurses cobble together fixes that are often invisible to patients,” but physicians “around the country say the latest shortages are more directly affecting patient care.” A survey of emergency physicians in May by the American College of Emergency Physicians “found that 9 of 10 said they didn’t have access to critical medicines, and nearly 4 in 10 said that patients had been negatively affected.” FDA Commissioner Dr. Scott Gottlieb “acknowledged in an interview that while the agency has made progress, it has not solved the underlying problem,” saying, “We are still in the position of trying to put a Band-Aid on a market that fundamentally hasn’t changed.”

Amazon’s PillPack Deal Unlikely To Impact Drug Costs, Analysts Say. The Wall Street Journal (6/29, Rockoff, Walker,

Subscription Publication, 6.13M) reported that Amazon's deal to purchase PillPack may make filling prescriptions more convenient, but is unlikely to address prescription drug costs, according to industry experts. Those experts suggested that Amazon may be able to negotiate to offer generic versions of medications, but that the main issue with US drug spending is rising cost driven by high-priced biotech therapies, which often must be injected or infused, and which retail pharmacies don't dispense. However, the deal threatens to shift market share from the 64,500 US retail pharmacies, and some analysts suggest Amazon could be looking to take over the role of pharmacy-benefit managers, which currently negotiate drug discounts for insurers and employers.

Meanwhile, CNBC (6/29, Lovelace, 4.81M) reported, "FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb says Amazon's new push into health care is just fine because anything that makes much needed products, like pharmaceuticals, more accessible to consumers and lowers costs is a positive." In a June 29 interview with CNBC's "Squawk Box," Gottlieb said, "Disruptive competition is a good thing."

First Cannabis-Based Prescription Drug Approved By FDA Marks "Watershed" Moment, Industry Members Say. Bloomberg News (6/29, Buckley, 4.46M) reported GW Pharmaceuticals has received FDA approval for its medical marijuana treatment "Epidiolex, a prescription drug for children with severe epilepsy," which has been "genetically modified to remove the psychoactive properties." As the "first prescription medicine derived from cannabis permitted to be sold in the U.S.," the drug's approval has been heralded by some industry members as "a watershed event" that the piece said "should help alleviate skepticism among some physicians about the plant's medical uses."

FDA Commissioner Comments On Efforts To Stem Online Opioid Sales. CNBC's Squawk Box (6/29, 85K) reported on the FDA's summit with Facebook, Google, Twitter, and other Internet companies seeking their help in cracking down on online opioid sales. In an interview, FDA Commissioner Dr. Scott Gottlieb said, "In 2015, there was data that came out that showed \$15 million of online sales, but we're

seeing more and more of the sales being shifted to the online I think as we start to reduce lawful prescribing, so a lot of the medical – a lot of the addiction was people got medically addicted as we see doctors start to prescribe fewer opioids, we're fearful that more and more of the new addiction is going to shift to illicit sources, and a lot of those sales are taking place online." Gottlieb characterized big Internet companies as having "been helpful" and said that "we've been working with them for some period of time now."

FDA Report Suggests Ways To Improve Its Hiring Process.

Congressional Quarterly (6/29, Siddons, Subscription Publication) reported that the FDA issued a new report that showed that the agency "sees ways that its ability to hire qualified staff could be improved, even after Congress granted it new hiring authorities at the end of 2016." The report noted that the new authorities it was granted "included the ability to offer higher salaries for some positions." The report largely "focuses on ways that the FDA has been implementing new hire authorities, including which positions it is designating for higher pay scales and how it has sped up its hiring process in several areas."

FDA Policy Limiting Blood Donations From Gay Men Draws Scrutiny.

The Kansas City (MO) Star (6/29, Randle, 636K) reported an FDA policy from 1983 requiring blood banks "to prohibit men who have sex with men from donating blood, blood components or plasma" has become "a point of contention for many in the LGBT community who viewed it as archaic and stigmatizing in a time when HIV is less of a threat." The FDA in 2015 "amended its ban to a '12 month deferment' policy, allowing men to donate blood as long as they haven't had sex with other men for the past year," but skeptics continue to argue against it. The piece adds that FDA spokeswoman Megan McSeveney said the agency is "fully committed in its actions to facilitate change" and is seeking new means to evaluate blood donors.

FDA Warns Pfizer Over "Misleading" Consumer Video.

STAT Plus (6/29, Silverman, Subscription Publication, 27K) reported the Food and Drug Administration "scolded" Pfizer "over a consumer video that created a 'misleading

impression' of the Estring vaginal ring because there was no risk information." In a June 19 letter, the FDA "argued the video 'misleadingly suggests that patients will experience similar results'" as the person depicted in the video, and the FDA "complained this was 'especially concerning from a public health perspective' because Estring product labeling mentions several serious, life-threatening risks, including two forms of cancer."

Op-Ed Touts FDA Allowance Of Off-Label Healthcare Economic Discussions.

In STAT (6/29, 27K) "First Opinion," John Osborn, a senior advisor with Hogan Lovells and a visiting scholar at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and Seth Ray, a senior counsel with O'Melveny & Myers, touted the Trump Administration's issuance of "final guidance that allows drug companies and device makers to provide health care economic and other supporting information to payers and formulary committees, even if the information is outside of the FDA approved labeling and was not submitted to the agency in the course of product approval." They suggested that this development "raises the question of whether the agency will take steps to allow companies to provide truthful off-label information to physicians and patients in other contexts." They noted that "in April, FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb signaled that an expanded safe harbor was coming soon that would provide a 'more robust framework' to allow companies to discuss the value proposition and health economic benefits of off-label uses."

Maple Syrup Producers, Beekeepers Oppose FDA's "Added Sugars" Label.

The AP (7/1) reports that the FDA's "added sugars" labeling is being opposed by maple syrup producers and beekeepers. The agency "has received more than 3,000 comments on its proposal, most of which are from honey and maple syrup producers, the Wisconsin Public Radio reported." The AP reports, "The FDA said that it's looking forward to 'working with stakeholders to devise a sensible solution,' but the "agency said it acknowledges that the feedback from producers indicates that their proposal 'does not provide the clarity that the FDA intended.'"

CDC Director Changes Stance On Use Of Condoms To Prevent STDs.

The AP

(6/29, Stobbe) reported that CDC Director Dr. Robert Redfield Jr. "once opposed condoms and needle exchange programs as ways to stop the spread of sexually transmitted diseases." But this week, he said during an interview that "his views have changed." He told the AP that "it has become clear to him that condoms and needle exchanges work as part of comprehensive programs to stop the spread of certain infectious diseases." Redfield was quoted as saying, "One thing I can commit to is CDC is not an opinion organization. It's a science-based, data-driven organization." Speaking about the AIDS epidemic, he added, "We do have the tools to end this epidemic. Let's use them."

CDC Map Illustrates Incidence Of Pediatric Cancer In Different US Regions.

On its website, NBC News (6/29, 5.76M) reported a new CDC map of cancers in the US indicates pediatric "cancer rates are the highest in the Northeast and lowest in the South," that leukemia "is more common in the western states," and "rates of pediatric lymphoma and brain cancer are higher in the Northeast." Lead report author CDC epidemiologist Dr. David Siegel wrote, "Variation in childhood cancer incidence might be related to differences in exposures to carcinogenic chemicals (e.g., air pollution, secondhand smoke, food, or drinking water) or radiation." The piece added, "there might be genetic variations in different populations. Inherited genetics account for about 5 percent of all childhood cancer, the National Cancer Institute says." The NCI was quoted as saying that in adults, certain "gene mutations reflect the cumulative effects of aging and long-term exposure to cancer-causing substances."

Health Exec (6/29, Leider) reported the CDC study sourced "data for 2003-2014 from the National Program of Cancer Registries and the National Cancer Institute's Surveillance," a period during which "171,432 cases of pediatric cancer were identified – an incidence rate of 173.7 cases per one million children."

House Legislators Seek More Transparency From FNIH Concerning Donors.

Science Magazine (6/29, Mervis, 441K) reported a House appropriations subcommittee is concerned that the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health (FNIH) may not be adhering to funding disclosure rules

dictated by the Public Health Service Act (PHSA). Science said the House report specifically addressed identifying donors “who have attached strings to their gift by labeling them as ‘anonymous.’” However, FNIH senior vice president of research partnerships David Wholley said, “We have the responsibility...to do these partnerships that support the NIH mission. ... And we have always complied with the law.” FNIH development office head Julie Wolf-Rodda said, “The lion’s share of anonymous gifts are from a relative of someone who was treated at the NIH Clinical Center...and doesn’t want their name listed in the annual report.” The piece noted that “NIH Director Francis Collins canceled a \$100-million study on the effects of moderate alcohol drinking” following “an investigation found NIH staff had improperly solicited industry directly and shaped the study to satisfy industry interests.”

NCI Research Funding Priorities Following Budget Increases Outlined.

In a paywalled piece, the [Cancer Letter](#) (6/29, Ong) reported on the NCI’s funding priorities after receiving “a \$147 million increase to the Research Grant Project pool,” \$60 million for “targeted research opportunities,” “a \$20 million increase for centers and SPOREs,” and “\$10 million for the National Clinical Trials Network and the NCI Community Oncology Research Program.” With its “\$275 million increase over fiscal 2017 levels,” NCI has an enacted 2018 budget of \$5.66 billion. The piece quoted NCI Director Ned Sharpless as saying, “there was about almost a \$40 million increase in taps, benefits, and salaries. ... These are things that the NCI has to experience. There’s an increase to our [Small Business Innovation Research program] funding, it’s a fixed grade of our external budget.”

NCI Establishes National Clinical Trials Network Navigator To Augment Access To Cancer Trial Specimens, Data.

[HemOnc Today](#) (6/29, Mishkin, 98K) reported the NCI recently established the National Clinical Trials Network (NCTN) Navigator which aims “to improve the research community’s access to specimens and data collected from cancer treatment trials” by providing researchers with “access to specimens donated by adults who participated in published NCI-sponsored phase 3 cancer trials.” The piece included an interview with Grace Mishkin, MPH, public health analyst at NCI,

who explained, “This initiative is designed to align with the goals of NCTN by taking a more network-wide centralized approach to making the specimens from these trials more available to the wider research community,” adding, “Ultimately, the goal is to have studies come through the navigator process and evaluate biomarkers that can hopefully be used in future clinical trials.”

NIDCD Study Indicates Partially-Restored Hearing In Mouse Model Of Inherited Deafness.

The [Beckley \(WV\) Register-Herald](#) (7/1, Holdren, 59K) reports a new study conducted by the National Institutes of Health’s National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, the University of Iowa, and Iowa City indicates new understandings of “the molecular mechanism in a form of deafness, DFNA27,” and “focused on a small-molecule drug – the first to preserve hearing in a mouse model of an inherited form of progressive human deafness.” Study co-author Thomas B. Friedman, PhD, chief of the Laboratory of Human Molecular Genetics at the NIDCD, explained, “We were able to partially restore hearing, especially at lower frequencies, and save some sensory hair cells.” Andrew J. Griffith, scientific director of the NIDCD, said that by following the genetic indicators, “We find novel and unexpected pathways that can, in cases such as this one, uncover unexpected potential treatment strategies in humans.”

Senate Committee Considers Additional \$2 Billion For NIH In 2019.

In a paywalled piece, the [Cancer Letter](#) (6/29, Williams, Ong) reported the Senate Committee on Appropriations submitted a fiscal 2019 spending bill last week which would increase NIH funding by \$2 billion, giving it \$39.1 billion. If the measure is enacted, “federally-funded biomedical research would get its fourth consecutive increase,” and \$190 million in new money of the total allocation would “trickle down to NCI.” The piece added that the House similarly drafted a bill which “proposes a \$1.25 billion increase for NIH, bringing the total to \$38.3 billion.”

NIH Recommends Strategies For Older Adults To Avoid Hypothermia In Summer Heat.

The [Beckley \(WV\) Register-Herald](#) (6/29, Holdren, Nelson, 59K) reported, “The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is encouraging older adults to take certain

precautions this summer to avoid hyperthermia,” recommending that older adults “stay indoors on particularly hot and humid days.” The NIH also advises staying hydrated, wearing light-colored and loose-fitting clothes, keeping homes and community centers cool, and visiting air-conditioned locations.

Johns Hopkins Tops List Of Leading NIH Grant Recipients In Baltimore Area.

The Baltimore Business Journal (6/29, Sieron, Subscription Publication, 823K) reported Johns Hopkins University again leads the list of top NIH grant recipients in Greater Baltimore for 2017 “with a total grant value of \$651.8 million last year.” The other leading grant recipients include the University of Maryland, Baltimore, the Kennedy Krieger Institute, the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, and Profectus BioSciences Inc.

OPIOID CRISIS

Opioid Deaths In Missouri Still On The Rise, But Growth Rate Slowing Down.

The AP (7/1) reports that while opioid related deaths “continue to increase in Missouri, the growth rate is slowing down, according to a new report.” The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services “found that there was a 4.7 percent increase in opioid deaths from 2016 to 2017, the Columbia Missourian reported.” That rate “is much lower than the 35 percent spike seen from 2015 to 2016.”

Ohio Auditor’s Report Shows Impact Of Opioids On Medicaid.

The AP (7/1) reports that a state auditor’s report “looking at the impact of the opioid crisis on state Medicaid spending shows the number of Ohio Medicaid recipients with an opioid-related diagnosis quadrupling from 2010 to 2016.” The report “recently released by Ohio Auditor Dave Yost shows the number of Ohio Medicaid recipients with an opioid-related diagnosis climbed 430 percent between 2010 and 2016.”

New Research Shows How Opioids Are Impacting The Workforce In Kentucky.

The AP (6/30) reported that new research shows how opioids are affecting the workforce in Kentucky. The research shows “that

the state’s high use of painkilling drugs called opioids appears to have reduced the labor pool.” In a paper “published by the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, economists Dionissi Aliprantis and Mark E. Schweitzer estimated that participation in the labor force by men in their prime working years – ages 24 to 54 – was 4.6 percent less on average in counties with high rates of opioid prescribing than in counties with low prescribing rates.”

Georgia Will Require Doctors To Check Database Before Prescribing Opioids.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution (6/29, 1.09M) reported that starting July 1, writing a prescription for opioid pain medications in Georgia “will require an extra step...that lawmakers hope may push health care professionals to make better prescribing decisions.” A state law that was passed last year “mandates that doctors, dentists and other prescribers check a database to determine what prescriptions patients have recently filled before doling out certain drugs, including opioid painkillers and benzodiazepines such as Xanax.”

Arizona County Joins Opioid Manufacturer Lawsuit.

The Arizona Republic (6/30, Wagner, 1.21M) reported that cities and counties across the US “have joined a nationwide lawsuit against corporations that make and distribute opioids, seeking to recoup tax dollars spent fighting America’s painkiller-addiction epidemic.” Cochise County in Arizona “became the latest to file suit this week, joining at least 1,500 local, state and tribal governments that in the past year have filed federal court complaints against Purdue Pharma LP, the manufacturer of OxyContin, and other companies.”

Pennsylvania Law Aims To Protect Newborns Affected By Opioid Addiction.

The Philadelphia Inquirer (6/29, McCullough, 1.07M) reported the Pennsylvania legislature last week passed a bill “that will dramatically change the rules for safeguarding newborns who go home from the hospital with mothers battling addiction.” The overhaul, “effective in October, says any newborn ‘affected’ by the mother’s drug use during pregnancy must be reported by the hospital to the county’s child protective agency, which must ‘immediately’ assess whether protective custody is needed. The

agency has to develop a 'plan of safe care' for babies who go home."

Innovative Program At Kentucky Jail Provides In-House Rehab For Inmates.

Fox News (7/1, Kesten, 16.38M) reports that a jail in Kenton County, Kentucky started "an innovative pilot program" back in 2015 that provides in-house rehab for inmates. Today, the program "is so successful that it has a running waitlist," and "the vast majority of men sign themselves up." That rehab program, "called Unit 104, houses 70 men," who "have access to alcoholics and narcotics anonymous meetings, along with a daily schedule of classes to prepare for the G.E.D. or future job interviews."

Nashville Family Loses Three Loved Ones "To Drugs' Grip."

The Tennessean (7/1, Wadhwani, 513K) reports that a family in Nashville has lost three loved ones in drug-related accidents since 2013. Mickey and Tina Baltz's son died in a car accident in 2013 when former 3 Doors Down bassist – having the opioid oxycodone and the muscle relaxant alprazolam in his system – clipped his car on the interstate. Then in 2016, their daughter's former boyfriend, Ralph Hardin, 29, "was fatally shot with his own gun in a room at the Red Roof Inn, where – the Baltzes say – he had gone to confront" the Baltz's daughter's drug dealer. And earlier this year, their daughter, Heather Baltz, died "of a heart infection doctors believe originated with a contaminated needle used to shoot heroin. She had turned to heroin after running out of pain pills prescribed for gallbladder surgery in 2014."

Media Collaborates To Share Solutions To Opioid Crisis.

The AP (6/28, De Groot) reported more than 50 print, digital, and broadcast news organizations "are casting a spotlight on the diverse and sometimes out-of-the-ordinary tactics being used to combat the devastating effects of the opioids crisis across Pennsylvania, from the smallest towns to the biggest cities." One goal of the media collaboration was "to make sure communities in every part of the state are aware of strategies, innovations and community efforts that are helping to alleviate the crisis, or at least show promise."

Police Using Databases To Crack Down On Opioid Abuse.

Politico (6/29,

Tahir, 3.51M) reported, "Bolstered by harsh law-and-order rhetoric from President Donald Trump and his aides, police around the country are using electronic databases to unleash a vast crackdown on opioid abusers and the allegedly crooked doctors who sustain them." The databases are helping "to reduce opioid prescriptions, which have fallen by nearly a third since 2011."

Metrohealth Cuts Opioid Prescriptions By 3 Million.

The Cleveland Plain Dealer (6/29, 1.03M) reported the MetroHealth System "is looking internally to strike the next blow in Ohio's battle against the opioid epidemic." MetroHealth "cut the number of opioid pills prescribed by 3 million, Dr. Akram Boutros, president and CEO of MetroHealth, announced Friday during MetroHealth's annual stakeholders meeting at the Huntington Convention Center of Cleveland." During the annual meeting, Boutros "also told the crowd of 700 about a new initiative to address community trauma and shared updated plans for a new 11-story, 270-bed 'hospital in a park' on its main campus off West 25th Street."

Modern Healthcare (6/29, Johnson, Subscription Publication, 239K) reported the efforts "resulted in 33% fewer opioid prescriptions compared with the previous 18 months." That includes "a 62% drop in prescriptions for acute pain and a 25% cut in prescriptions for chronic pain."

NBC Analysis: France Seems To Have Solution To Its Own Opioid Crisis.

NBC Nightly News (7/1, story 9, 3:10, Jackson, 8.26M) reported that France appears to have found a way to "dramatically cut down on the number of people who die from overdosing" on opioids. France, which went through its "own opioid epidemic" in the 1980s and 1990s, began allowing all general practitioners to prescribe buprenorphine in the mid-1990s. In four years, "overdose deaths dropped by 79 percent, and even now, 64 percent of heroin and other opioid substance abusers are on the treatment. Under France's universal health system, it's free." NBC's Dr. John Torres said buprenorphine "works and saves lives" but isn't being used in the US because it's not covered in all states, and doctors who would prescribe it would need "special training."

MENTAL ILLNESS

Student Groups On College Campuses May Improve Access To Mental Health Resources, Study Suggests.

The [Huffington Post](#) (6/30, Pajer, 4.32M) reported that some college students “are taking action” to improve access to mental healthcare and “address the culture that makes their peers reluctant to seek help.” The article said some students “have formed clubs and support groups,” while “others educate fellow students about mental health offerings on campus.” A new study which examines such groups across 12 California schools found that “students’ efforts are working,” and said that the presence of these groups on campus “was found to foster an increase in general knowledge and positive attitudes about mental health,” according to the article.

HEALTHCARE FRAUD

Tennessee CEO Indicted In \$2.5 Million Medicare Fraud Case.

The [Tennessean](#) (6/29, Kelman, 513K) reported in continuing coverage about a “nationwide health care fraud takedown” that “led to hundreds of arrests in a host of unconnected cases across the nation.” The article said “Brenda Montgomery, 70, of Camden, the owner of CCC Medical, Inc., has been charged with conspiracy and bribery, according to a federal indictment that was unsealed Thursday.” The Tennessee company “sold knee, wrist and back braces.” According to the piece, “Montgomery was identified as [the] leader of the alleged Tennessee bribery conspiracy, which prosecutors say spanned six years before being discovered in January. Federal prosecutors also charged four others: Beau Jones, 50, of Loudon; and Sarah Dacus, 36; Greg Lawson, 42; and Josh Wiley, 35; all of Knoxville.”

Dallas Healthcare Center Service Provider Charged In \$2.5 Million Medicare Fraud Scheme.

The [Dallas Morning News](#) (6/29, Coello, Reporter, 1.05M) reported that the operator of a Dallas healthcare practice was arrested Thursday and “faces a fraud charge after a record-breaking enforcement action by the Medicare Fraud Strike Force.” A federal

complaint alleges that Nehaj Rizvi, 29, who operated Life Spring Housecall Physicians, “used a physician’s signature stamp to sign certifications and orders for supposedly homebound patients who did not actually need the endorsed treatments,” according to the article. Life Spring distributed physician orders and certifications “to over 100 home health agencies, allowing them to charge Medicare about \$2.5 million in false billings, according to the complaint.”

PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICING

Epilepsy Drug’s Price Increase Highlighted.

[CNN](#) (6/29, Drash, For, 82.6M) highlighted the case of Trevor Foltz, a teen who lives with infantile spasms, a rare form of epilepsy. The treatment needed for his survival, Acthar (repository corticotropin), increased in price from \$1,600 per dose to “more than \$23,000,” and his family “wrestled with their insurance” to get him treated “at a cost of more than \$125,000.” The family had to fight for another round of treatment more than a year later, meaning another cost of \$125,000. The drug, first invented in the 1930s, cost \$40 per vial back in 2001 and now costs \$39,000 per vial. Ultimately, the steep price hike “resulted in a \$100 million settlement between the government and the drugmaker – as well as revelations that Medicare has spent nearly \$2 billion covering Acthar prescriptions for seniors while the drugmaker paid millions to prescribing doctors.”

Op-Ed: “American Patients First” Plan Neglects Key Elements Necessary To Reduce Drug Costs.

Hagop Kantarjian, MD, health policy fellow at Rice University’s Baker Institute for Public Policy, and Vivian Ho, PhD, Baker Institute chair in health economics and director at the Center for Health and Biosciences, write in an op-ed for [The Hill](#) (7/1, 2.71M) that the Trump Administration “should reconsider thoughtfully” the “American Patients First” drug pricing proposal released in May by the Department of Health and Human Services because it “is unlikely” the plan will yield the changes necessary to cut drug costs. According to the authors, a successful plan “must address controlling drug prices through reducing the launch price of new drugs; prohibiting unjustified annual increases of prices, and protecting patients from excessive out-of-pocket expenses.”

However, they conclude, the “American Patients First’ road map ignores all three.”

Editorial: More Policies Requiring Transparency Of PBMs Are Necessary To Combat Drug Prices.

In an editorial, the [Columbus \(OH\) Dispatch](#) (7/1, 399K) argues for increased transparency regarding the role of pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) play in drug pricing. The Dispatch says PBMs “were once hailed as an answer to provide needed cost controls through claims management for insurers and payers,” but now “have been revealed as lining their pockets” in their contracts with prescription-drug manufacturers and payers. The editorial applauds the implementation of state contracts requiring transparency about pricing from “two of the nation’s largest PBMs, CVS Caremark and Optum Rx,” which took effect Sunday, and calls for “Medicaid administrators, legislators, office holders and would-be office holders...[to] continue demanding more transparency until we can all be assured that consumers and taxpayers are being treated fairly.”

Op-Ed Criticizes Pharmacy Benefit Managers.

In an op-ed in [STAT](#) (6/29, 27K), Scott Knoer, PharmD, the chief pharmacy officer of the Cleveland Clinic, argued that pharmacy benefit managers engage in “financial shenanigans” rather than helping “control costs for payers and lower out-of-pocket costs for plan members.” Knoer contended that PBMs have been able to do this for so long because they “closely guard their complicated processes to avoid scrutiny, and require pharmacies to sign confidential agreements that shield them from visibility.” And, since just three PBMs “control 73 percent of the market,” there are often “abuses” of the system. Knoer detailed five ways in which PBMs “make their unparalleled high profits” – processing of claims, negotiation of rebates, the spread, or “difference between what a pharmacy benefit manager collects from the payer (such as Medicaid) for medications and the amount it pays the pharmacy that dispenses it,” as well as by “forcing patients to use specific pharmacies,” and via remuneration fees.

Op-Ed: State, Federal Laws Should Empower Pharmacists To Help Manage Drug Costs.

In an op-ed in [The Hill](#) (6/29, 2.71M), Lucinda L. Maine, PhD, RPh, the

Executive Vice President and CEO of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, argued that “pharmacists are in a good position to assist” with the challenges of medication costs, “if state and federal laws would allow.” She pointed out that when “patients elect not to fill a prescription or use only a few doses without finishing the course,” this can increase healthcare costs. She pointed out that “the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy has long advocated for legislative and regulatory changes to professional practice that would help some 200 million Americans better manage their chronic diseases so that more lives could be saved.” Among the changes she suggested is “increasing public access to and coverage for pharmacists’ medication management services.”

HEALTH CARE & INSURANCE REFORM

Sen. Collins Says She Will Oppose Supreme Court Pick Who Shows “Hostility” To Roe V. Wade.

The [Washington Post](#) (7/1, Long, 15.68M) reports Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME) is a “key swing vote on President Trump’s next Supreme Court pick” and she said she will not support “any judge who would overturn Roe v. Wade.” Collins said Sunday on CNN’s State of the Union, “I would not support a nominee who demonstrated hostility to Roe v. Wade.”

The [New York Times](#) (7/1, Fandos, Cochrane, 19.33M) reports that Sen. Collins is “among the few remaining voices of centrism in the Republican Party,” and “is one of two Republican senators who have supported abortion rights and, in the past, have shown themselves willing to break with their party.”

The [AP](#) (7/1, Yen, Thomas) reports Sen. Collins explained that any judge with such hostility to precedent “would not be acceptable to me because that would indicate an activist agenda.” The AP adds, “Republicans hold a narrow 51-49 majority in the Senate, and it’s even closer because of the absence of ailing Sen. John McCain of Arizona.”

[CNN](#) (7/1, Watkins, 82.6M) reports Collins “said when she met with President Donald Trump to discuss the vacancy created by the retirement of Justice Anthony Kennedy, she encouraged Trump ‘to broaden his list beyond’ his standing list

of 25 potential choices.” She said, “The President really was soliciting my views on the type of nominee that I was looking for,” adding, “I emphasized that I wanted a nominee who would respect precedent, a fundamental tenet of our judicial system.” Collins also said, “I want a judge who will apply the law to the facts of the case with fidelity to the Constitution” and “Roe v. Wade is a constitutional right that is well established, and no less an authority than Chief Justice Roberts said that repeatedly at his confirmation hearing.”

Bloomberg News (7/1, Niquette, Condon, 4.46M) reports Collins said of the president’s process, “I got the feeling that he was still deliberating and had not yet reached a decision, and that this was genuine outreach on his part.” She added, “There are people on that list whom I could not support.”

The Washington Examiner (7/1, Ayers, 340K) reports Sen. Collins pointed out that Justice Neil Gorsuch would likely not overturn Roe v. Wade. She explained, “I had a very long discussion with Justice Gorsuch in my office and he pointed out to me that he [is] the co-author of a whole book on precedent,” adding, “So someone who devotes that much time to writing a book on precedent, I think, understands how important a principle that is in our judicial system.”

Also reporting are Reuters (7/1, Dunsmuir), the Washington Times (7/1, Richardson, 460K) and Politico (7/1, Kullgren, 3.51M).

Most Americans Do Not Want To Overturn Roe V. Wade, Poll Says. Congressional Quarterly (6/29, Raman, Subscription Publication) reported according to a survey released Friday, only 29 percent of Americans support overturning Roe v. Wade. The poll was conducted before Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy announced he was retiring. Among Republicans, 53 percent want the case overturned, while 81 percent of Democrats and 73 percent of independents do not.

The Hill (6/29, Hellmann, 2.71M) reported, “Sixty-eight percent of women and 65 percent of men said they want the decision to remain the law of the land.” The poll was from the Kaiser Family Foundation. The Hill added, “Forty-percent of adults said they are more likely to vote for a candidate who supports access to abortion services, while 30 percent said a candidate who supports abortion restrictions is more likely to get their vote.”

Politico (6/29, Diamond, 3.51M) reported the poll found 67 percent of Americans “oppose rolling back constitutional protections for access to abortion.” The poll also showed that “67 percent of Democrats oppose the Trump administration’s proposal to prohibit federal funding from going to organizations that provide abortion services, while Republicans are nearly split” with 46 percent in support and 48 in opposition.

The Washington Examiner (6/29, Leonard, 340K) also reports.

Trump Judicial Adviser Claims None Of Top Supreme Court Candidates Have A “Clear Position” On Roe V. Wade. The Washington Examiner (7/1, Williams, 340K) reports Leonard Leo, a “top Trump judicial adviser” and vice president of the Federalist Society, “none of the reportedly top individuals on the administration’s shortlist of candidates to replace retiring Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy have a clear position on whether to overturn” the Roe v. Wade holding. Leo said, “Prospective nominees like Brett Kavanaugh, and Amy Barrett, and Raymond Kethledge, and Tom Hardiman are people who have not specifically said they oppose Roe v. Wade, and their writings and their work show that they are very fair.” He added, “They look at arguments from both sides all the time and they analyze them very carefully, and when they take a position, they then say these are what the other people have said about this and here’s why I don’t agree with them.”

Advocacy Groups Plan To Spend Millions On Supreme Court Nomination Battle. NPR (7/1, Overby, 3.55M) reports both sides of the upcoming battle over President Trump’s nomination to the Supreme Court are “expected to spend tens of millions of dollars.” NPR adds, “the Judicial Crisis Network, which pledged \$10 million to win confirmation for Justice Neil Gorsuch last year, is gearing up again” and so are “plenty of other groups,” including “the Koch brothers’ Americans for Prosperity, which said it’s ‘prepared to commit seven figures,’ the anti-abortion Susan B. Anthony Fund, Heritage Action and others.” The article says, “Some liberal groups say this won’t be like other confirmation fights, and they hope to put the future of the Affordable Care Act, or Obamacare, at the center.”

Opinion: Ending Abortion Is The Beginning, Not The End. Kimberly Ross wrote in the Washington Examiner (6/29, Ross, 340K) that “Abortion has reached a near-sacramental

status in the Left's political religion" and "to encroach upon this holy ground is tantamount to war." Ross added, "One day, we hope to look back on abortion as we now do slavery and wonder how a nation built on freedom ever permitted and celebrated such a daily horror." She concluded, "While there may be a potential victory on the horizon, pro-lifers should not trick themselves into believing such a thing means our mission is accomplished."

Opinion: Antiabortion Groups Are "Laying Low" About Overturning Roe. Jennifer Rubin wrote in the Washington Post (6/29, 15.68M) in its "Right Turn" blog that "pro-life activists are trying to lay low" about being "on the brink of achieving their dream of a 5-4 court ready to reverse Roe v. Wade." Rubin criticized their "different tune" and says, "pro-life activists should have the power of their convictions," noting, "they have spent their lives saying they want to eradicate abortion and that the American people were with them. Now is the time to have that fight."

Opinion: People Need To Mobilize Against Trump's Supreme Court Pick. EJ Dionne Jr. writes in the Washington Post (7/1, Dionne, 15.68M) that Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) was correct when she called the replacement of Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy the "fight of our lives." Dionne says, "There is no choice but to mobilize." He adds, "The future of abortion rights is central to the coming battle. But so are civil rights, corporate power and our democratic capacity to correct social injustices."

Medical Advances Have Contributed To Plunging Abortion Rates. The New York Times (7/1, A1, Belluck, Hoffman, 19.33M) reports on its front page that "America even without legal abortion would be very different from America before abortion was legal." The article explains, "a full-fledged return to an era of back-alley, coat-hanger abortions seems improbable" because "a burst of scientific innovation has produced more effective, simpler and safer ways to prevent pregnancies and to stop them after conception – advances that have contributed to an abortion rate that has already plunged by half since the 1980s."

Iowa Supreme Court Rules Against 72-Hour Abortion Waiting Period. The AP (6/29, Pitt) reported the Iowa Supreme Court on Friday ruled 5-2 that a state law requiring a 72-

hour waiting period for abortions is unconstitutional, saying that "autonomy and dominion over one's body go to the very heart of what it means to be free." The court determined the restriction was not "narrowly tailored to serve a compelling interest of the state."

Reuters (6/29, Goldberg) reported that there is a "separate challenge pending" over another provision of the law "that outlaws abortion after a fetal heartbeat is detected."

Also reporting were The Hill (6/29, Wise, 2.71M) and the Washington Examiner (6/29, King, 340K).

Opinion: Women Must Speak Up To Defend Abortion Rights. Cindi Leive, former editor in chief of Glamour and Self, wrote in the New York Times (6/30, 19.33M) that as Justice Anthony Kennedy, "whose vote has helped protect abortion rights over his 30 years on the Supreme Court, prepares to retire, we are faced with the very real prospect of a court that would overturn Roe, at a time when states across the country are already restricting abortion rights." Leive emphasized the importance of women who have had an abortion sharing their stories if they feel comfortable with doing so because "silence...allows menacing myths about abortion to thrive." Leive said the right to abortion "is under greater threat than it has been in my adult lifetime," and concluded that "just as women decades ago shared their stories en masse in an effort to change inhumane laws, it's time for those of us who feel we can share to do so once again."

New Mexico Democrats Push To Repeal State Abortion Law. The Albuquerque (NM) Journal (6/29, McKay, 215K) reported that Democratic lawmakers in New Mexico are renewing efforts to repeal a state law that makes it a crime for an abortion provider to end a women's pregnancy, except in narrow circumstances. The push comes "in part because the retirement of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy will allow President Donald Trump to nominate his successor," according to the article.

Supreme Court Ruling Raises Doubts About Illinois Abortion Law. The Chicago Tribune (7/1, Lourgou, 2.37M) reports the Supreme Court's recent decision to back anti-abortion pregnancy centers is raising doubts

about an Illinois law that says “medical providers must inform patients about all available medical options, including abortion and contraception, even if the nurse or physician has faith-based or moral objections.”

Some States Taking Action To Support ACA. The Washington Post (7/1, Goldstein, 15.68M) reports on efforts by state governments to buttress the protections of the Affordable Care Act against efforts by the federal government to “erode the ACA.” The Post discusses individual mandate requirements passed in New Jersey, Vermont, and DC, as well as state efforts to erect “barriers against rules the Trump administration is writing to promote short-term health plans.” The Post explains how “taken together, the moves mean the nation is starting to revert to the insurance landscape of a decade ago — a hodgepodge that created the political pressures that culminated in the sweeping 2010 law” — where each state had different insurance requirements.

House Vote To Repeal Medical Device Tax May Bolster Vulnerable GOP Lawmaker. The Hill (7/1, Sullivan, 2.71M) reports that the House is planning to vote this month on legislation that would repeal the Affordable Care Act’s medical device tax, which would “satisfy industry leaders and boost the reelection prospects for the bill’s sponsor,” Rep. Erik Paulsen (R-MN), whose seat is “vulnerable.” Several device makers are based in Paulsen’s district. Repealing the tax is “absolutely popular in this district,” according to Larry Jacobs, a political science professor at the University of Minnesota.

Sen. Durbin Says Trump Seeking Court Nominee Who Will Overturn Roe, Affordable Care Act. The Washington Times (7/1, Richardson, 460K) reports Senate Minority Whip Dick Durbin said President Trump is seeking to nominate a justice to the Supreme Court who will overturn *Roe v. Wade* and the Affordable Care Act. Durbin said, “The president is looking for someone who will overturn *Roe versus Wade*. ... But even equally important, he’s looking for someone on the court who will make sure that they rule that the Affordable Care Act’s protection of those with preexisting conditions is unconstitutional.”

Trump Administration Proposes Cuts To ACA Navigators. The Hill (6/29, Sullivan, 2.71M) reported the Trump Administration has proposed cutting the funding for Affordable Care Act navigators from \$36 million last year to \$10 million this year. The Administration cut the funding from \$63 million to \$36 million in 2017. While a spokeswoman for the Department of Health and Human Services “did not respond to a request for comment,” but sources “say that proposal now could be walked back, and it is possible funding could remain the same as last year, but it is unclear where the final number will end up.”

Health Insurers Offering ACA Plans In More States, But At Higher Premiums. The Washington Examiner (7/2, Leonard, 340K) reports that even though health insurers are planning to expand their participation under the Affordable Care Act, the “trend is coming at the expense of higher premiums for certain customers.” The “entrance by insurers into Obamacare is a reversal from years of exits.” The Examiner reports that Oscar Health is expanding into three new states; Centene “has filed in North Carolina and Tennessee;” and Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield, Molina, and Medica are also adding states.

Obama Told Trump To Take Credit For ACA. The Hill (6/29, Sullivan, 2.71M) reported former President Barack Obama revealed Thursday that he told President Trump, “Just change the name and claim that you made these wonderful changes and I would be like, ‘You go.’” Obama added, “Because I didn’t have pride of authorship, I just wanted people to have health care.”

Newsweek (6/29, Touchberry, 2.18M) reports that “Obama reiterated Thursday that he did not take up the issue of health care because he wanted to preserve his legacy or receive credit.” Obama said, “The idea that I somehow took on health care just because I thought it was fun or it would somehow burnish my legacy is nuts,” adding, “Because we knew going [into] 2008 that every president since Teddy Roosevelt had failed to do what every other advanced democracy in the world has done.”

Insurance Premiums Set To Sharply Rise Next Year In New York. Newsday

(NY) (7/1, Polsky, 1.52M) reports that insurance premiums in New York state are positioned to “rise sharply in January, as measures to undercut the Affordable Care Act start to take effect.” The 14 insurers in the state “are asking for a weighted-average hike of 24 percent, with individual requests ranging from an actual rate cut to up to a 38.6 percent increase.” Newsday adds, “The highest rate was requested by Fidelis Care, which has the highest percentage of individual enrollment in 2018, with 41 percent of enrollees with qualified health plans.”

Medica To Add Two More States: Missouri, Oklahoma.

The Minneapolis Star Tribune (6/29, Snowbeck, 1.16M) reports health insurer Medica is planning on expanding next year into individual insurance markets in Missouri and Oklahoma. The growth brings the insurer’s total to eight states. The Star Tribune points out, “While many health insurers over the past two years have fled red ink in the individual market under the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA), Medica has grown from its base in Minnesota, North Dakota and Wisconsin into Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska.”

University Of Mississippi Medical Center To Continue Treating Blue Cross Patients As In-Network During Mediation Process.

The Jackson (MS) Clarion Ledger (6/29, Wolfe, 287K) reported the University of Mississippi Medical Center has agreed to continue treating patients with insurance from Blue Cross & Blue Shield as “in-network” while the two attempt to resolve a contract dispute. Both sides have agreed to meet with a “professional mediator.”

Opinion: IRS Should Let Workers Spend Pretax Money On Healthcare.

Regina Herzlinger, a Harvard Business School professor, and Joel Klein, chief policy and strategy officer at Oscar Health, writes the Wall Street Journal (7/1, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) that healthcare is becoming an unsustainable expense as the Milliman Medical Index estimates that insurance for an American family of four was \$28,000 this year. They propose a solution to have the Internal Revenue Service permit workers to buy health insurance using pretax dollars, like employers.

Editorial: Minnesota Helps Bring Insurance Premiums Down, But Faces Funding “Cliff.”

The Minneapolis Star Tribune (6/30, 1.16M) editorialized that insurers in Minnesota are proposing rate decreases on the individual market by 7 to 12 percent. The editorial explained that the state legislature’s “reinsurance” program “played a played a lead role in keeping rates down.” The piece adds, “A different and far more daunting health care challenge looms: a towering state funding cliff that could weaken Minnesota’s health-care-driven economy and undermine coverage for 982,000 Minnesotans relying on public programs.”

Op-Ed: Most Physicians Unaware Of Ways They Can Reduce Healthcare Costs For Patients.

Hussain Lalani, resident physician in Dallas, Texas, writes in a column for the Dallas Morning News (6/29, 1.05M) that as one of more than 30,000 new physicians beginning medical residency July 1, he is “concerned that we will contribute to the \$750 billion epidemic of excessive health care spending...and risk financially hurting our patients if we do not know the cost of what we prescribe.” Lalani explained, “Most patients want their doctors to talk about costs of care with them. ... Yet, most doctors don’t know the specific costs of what they prescribe.” He noted that often, there are “cheaper, equally effective alternatives” physicians can use to minimize healthcare costs.

HUMAN SERVICES NEWS

HHS Provides Maine Group With \$200K Grant For Health Work.

The AP (7/1) reports that the Department of Health and Human Services has provided a \$200,000 grant to help the Aroostook County, Maine Action Program “connect more residents with health services.” Sens. Angus King (I-ME) and Susan Collins (R-ME) “say the action program plays an important role in linking residents of far northern Maine to services.”

July 1 Marks Change In Arizona Child Welfare Laws.

The Arizona Republic (7/1, 1.21M) reports that July 1 marked a change in Arizona’s child-welfare proceedings. As of that date, “except in emergency situations, child welfare workers will no longer be able to remove a

child from her home to protect against abuse or neglect without first getting a court's permission." While critics hope the change will end what they refer to as the "warrantless seizures" of children, "the experience of other states, and the expectations of the lawmakers who championed the legislation, suggests it will have a more subtle effect on the number of child removals."

District Of Columbia Extends Deadline For Daycare Workers To Meet New Education Requirements.

The Washington Post (6/29, Stein, 15.68M) reported that Washington, DC's government has extended a deadline for the city's "daycare employees to meet stricter education requirements after workers in the field argued that the new rules were unrealistic to complete." Two years ago, the city enacted some of the "most advanced education requirements for childcare workers" in the US, but faced "a backlash, with critics arguing that childcare workers are often paid minimum wage and there is little incentive for them to obtain higher degrees." On June 29, the city announced it would provide "employees an additional one to four years to complete certification or degree requirements."

The AP (6/30) reported that "lead teachers in child care centers now have until December 2023 instead of 2020 to earn an associate's degree," while "requirements for assistant teachers, home caregivers and associate home caregivers were pushed back from 2018 to 2019."

Ohio Hasn't Used \$5M Designated For At-Risk Youth In 2018.

The AP (7/1) reports that so far, Ohio has not spent any of the \$5 million it has designated in 2018 "for services for troubled youth on the cusp of being removed from their homes or at risk of entering the justice or foster-care systems." Money from the so-called "crisis stabilization fund" was earmarked "to help pay for support groups, child care, transportation and other expenses," and "county Family and Children First councils were given the task of making local plans to administer the funds." Child welfare advocates argue that "stipulations attached to the federally funded program have caused roadblocks."

Maine Governor Vetoes Bills To Increase Reimbursement Rates For Direct Care Workers.

The Portland (ME)

Press Herald (6/29, Pols, 157K) reported that on the evening of June 29, Gov. Paul LePage (R-ME) vetoed two measures that would have boosted "reimbursement rates for the agencies that hire direct care workers who provide key support for adults with intellectual disabilities, as well as those who care for the elderly in nursing homes." Last week, the Legislature unanimously passed a measure affecting workers who care for "intellectually disabled adults," and supporters hope they will be able to gather "the two-thirds majority necessary to override the governor's veto when lawmakers return on July 9." The current veto, however, means pay rates reverted to 2017 levels as of July 1, and workers were set to "face an immediate 12 percent pay cut," according to Maine Association for Community Service Providers Executive Director Lydia Dawson, to a pay level of \$9.17 per hour, less than the minimum wage.

FOOD & IMPORT SAFETY

Wish-Bone Recalls Salad Dressing For Possible Allergens.

The Knoxville (TN) News Sentinel (7/1, 252K) reports, "Pinnacle Foods Inc. is recalling 7,768 cases of Wish-Bone House Italian salad dressing distributed nationwide after learning from a customer that some bottles were mislabeled," according to the FDA. The voluntary recall pertains to "15-ounce bottles which may not list milk or egg, potential allergens, as ingredients," and impacts products with a "Best If Used By" date of Jan. 13, 2019.

The New Orleans Times-Picayune (7/1, Krueger, 521K) reports, "According to the company, 7,768 cases of the recalled product was distributed."

NUTRITION & OBESITY

Beverage Industry Scores "Defining Victory" In Banning Soda Taxes In California.

The Washington Post (6/30, Dewey, 15.68M) reported that the beverage industry "scored a defining victory" in its battle against soda taxes last week when California lawmakers voted to bar future local taxes on sugary drinks. According to the Post, "under the fast-moving ban introduced June 23 and signed into law five days later, no new food or beverage taxes can be passed in the state until 2031 at the

earliest.” The article said that the law “represents a significant, if long-anticipated, shift among the nation’s soda makers, who have previously fought taxes, city by city, and expended millions of dollars in the process.”

Fortune (6/29, Mukherjee, 3.91M) examined how such a measure seems unlikely in a state known for progressive policies and attributed to passing of the legislation to a “successful, no-holds-barred campaign by the beverage industry and its supporters to nix even the possibility of local soda taxes in exchange for standing down on a controversial tax-related ballot measure.”

In commentary published by The Hill (7/1, 2.71M), Larry Cohen, the executive director of the nonprofit Prevention Institute, maintains that the “new law banning soda taxes in California is a setback.” But when teenage health advocates from Stockton “urged lawmakers to stand with communities like theirs and put people’s health over corporate profits,” the “other side was conspicuously quiet” so, we “won’t give up on reigning in the soda industry.”

Also reporting were Kaiser Health News (6/29, Young) and U.S. News & World Report (6/29, Lardieri, 1.97M).

MEDICARE

CMS To Test Medicare Advantage Plans As APMs. Modern Healthcare (6/29, Dickson, Subscription Publication, 239K) reported the CMS “wants to launch an experiment that allows doctors in Medicare Advantage plans to qualify as participating in an alternative pay model.” Clinicians in Medicare Advantage plans “have urged the CMS to consider those plans as APMs since some are offering risk-based contracts.”

MEDICAID & CHIP

Sununu Signs Reauthorized Medicaid Expansion Bill. The AP (6/29) reports Republican Gov. Chris Sununu “has signed a bill to continue New Hampshire’s expanded Medicaid program for another five years.” The current program “uses Medicaid funds to purchase private health plans for about 50,000 low-income residents. It would have expired this year if lawmakers didn’t reauthorize it.” The bill “also

changes its structure to a more cost-effective managed care model.”

The New Hampshire Union Leader (6/29, 122K) quoted Sununu saying, “This is probably the biggest single piece of landmark legislation I have been involved with as governor.” The Nashua (NH) Telegraph (6/30, 44K) reported that the law “still needs federal approval for some of the waivers it is seeking, such as for the work requirement for able-bodied, childless adults.”

Maine Governor Vetoes Medicaid Expansion Funding.

The Portland (ME) Press Herald (6/29, 157K) reported Maine Gov. Paul LePage “vetoed a \$60 million Medicaid expansion funding bill Friday, an expected move that sets up a veto override vote by lawmakers when they return on July 9.” LePage “said in a statement Friday evening that he vetoed the bill, passed by the Legislature last week, because lawmakers acted in a fiscally irresponsible manner.”

The AP (7/1, Villeneuve) reported Maine “is the only state whose voters have approved expanding Medicaid to low-income residents, but expansion originally set for Monday is in limbo as a legal battle between the fiscally conservative governor and advocates continues.”

Maine’s Medicaid Program To Cover Chiropractic Exams. The AP (6/30) reports Maine’s Medicaid program “will start covering chiropractic exams under a new law,” which is expected to require “about \$67,000 from Maine’s general fund and \$122,000 in federal funds.”

Idaho GOP Committee Passes Resolution Opposing Medicaid Expansion Initiative.

The Idaho Press Tribune (6/29) reported the Idaho Republican Party’s resolutions committee “approved a resolution this morning opposing the Medicaid expansion ballot initiative, in one of the first resolutions to gain support during the 2018 GOP convention, reports Bryan Clark of the Idaho Falls Post Register.” The resolution, “drafted and submitted by the Bonneville County Central Committee, passed on an overwhelming voice vote in the committee, though there was a small group of dissenters.”

The AP (6/29, Kruesi) reported the resolution – which “still needs to win approval from delegates during Saturday’s general session – warns ‘the current Medicaid program is already cannibalizing

dollars for schools and roads by growing at a faster rate than other major programs and expansion will further erode support for other critical spending needs.”

Iowa’s New Private Medicaid Company Has “Troubled Past.” The Des Moines (IA) Register (7/1, Clayworth, 292K) reports that an investigation shows that “the corporation selected to help manage Iowa’s controversial privatized Medicaid system has faced serious charges of mismanagement resulting in at least \$23.6 million in penalties in more than a dozen states.” Iowa Total Care, a subsidiary of Centene, “was awarded a state Medicaid contract in May by the Iowa Department of Human Services despite scoring nearly 14 points lower on its evaluation than when it had applied and was rejected in 2015, public records show.” But with “only two companies bidding for the work, Iowa Total Care won a spot managing Iowa’s annual \$4.8 billion Medicaid program.”

Arkansas Suspends Medicaid Payments To Missouri Nonprofit After Arrest. The AP (6/30) reports authorities in Arkansas “have suspended Medicaid payments to a Missouri nonprofit after a former executive with the agency was arrested as part of a scheme to improperly bill almost \$2.3 million in claims for mental health services.” Citing the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, the AP reports that the suspension Friday of Medicaid payments “comes a day after Robin Raveendran, formerly executive vice president for Preferred Family Healthcare, was arrested on two counts of Medicaid fraud.”

Ohio Medicaid Execs Criticized For Defending Pharmacy Middlemen. The Columbus (OH) Dispatch (7/1, 399K) reports that criticism “rained down” on Ohio Medicaid executives during a legislative hearing last week as they “reported on findings by a consultant who delved into practices of pharmacy benefit managers, which play the role of middlemen between Medicaid’s managed care outfits and Ohio pharmacies.”

Iowa Hospital Association Says State Has No Data To Support Medicaid Savings Claim. The Cedar Rapids (IA) Gazette (7/1, Ramm, 146K) reports the Iowa Hospital Association said Iowa Medicaid

Enterprises Director Michael Randol has no data to back up his claim that the state’s managed-care model is saving money. The IHA says the state is saving money “because the Medicaid insurance companies are not adequately reimbursing health care providers for their services,” according to the article.

West Virginia Medicaid Waiver Expands Options For Substance Abuse Treatment. The Exponent Telegram (WV) (7/1, Snoderly) reports that the second phase of a Medicaid waiver in West Virginia has been “rolled out” which will focus “more on intensive services for individuals with substance use disorders, according to Bureau of Medical Services Commissioner Cindy Beane.” The waiver allows the state to sidestep the Institutions for Mental Diseases Medicaid exclusion that “prohibits the use of federal funds for care provided to patients in mental health facilities with more than 16 beds.” West Virginia was “awarded the waiver in October 2017, making it the fifth state to receive the approval.”

Article Examines Why Tennessee Has Not Expanded Medicaid. The Tennessean (6/29, Allison, 513K) featured an article that examined why the state has not been among those to expand Medicaid. The piece highlighted a way to cover Tennessee’s 10% share of Medicaid expansion cost, and how it could lower insurance premiums.

HEALTH & MEDICAL NEWS

Scientists Warn On Increased Mortality Risk From Prolonged Sitting. NBC Nightly News (6/29, story 12, 0:20, Holt, 6.8M) reported American Cancer Society scientists warn that sitting for at least six hours a day can “lead to a nearly 20 percent higher risk of death, compared with people who sat for just three hours.” They said, “Spending all that time sitting was linked to 14 diseases.”

People Fail To Properly Wash Hands While Cooking 97 Percent Of The Time, Study Finds. USA Today (6/29, Molina, 11.4M) reported, “Ahead of Fourth of July grilling, the U.S. Department of Agriculture is offering a reminder to wash our hands” properly.

TIME (6/30, Ducharme, 19.27M) reported, "People fail to properly wash their hands while cooking 97% of the time, potentially opening them up to food-borne illnesses such as salmonella, norovirus and E. coli," research indicated. The findings came from a US Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service study.

US Evacuates More Americans From China Following Mystery Illness Complaints.

The Wall Street Journal (7/1, Chen, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) reports that at least nine Americans have been medically evacuated from the Chinese city of Guangzhou following complaints of abnormal aural sensations similar to those experienced by US diplomats in Cuba last year. To date, only one American in China has been confirmed as having symptoms and clinical findings consistent with those experienced by U.S. diplomats in Cuba, according to the Journal. However, US embassy staff were told in June that the evacuations of the Americans were not all connected to the mysterious symptoms.

The New York Times (6/30, Myers, 19.33M) said the State Department "evacuated at least 11 Americans from China" after abnormal sounds or sensations were reported by government employees at the US Consulate in Guangzhou.

Most People Apply Too Little Sunscreen.

The Wall Street Journal (6/29, McGinty, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) reported that many people do not apply enough sunscreen, and dermatologists sometimes have difficulty explaining how much should be used. Sandy Walsh, a spokeswoman for the FDA, said, "The amount of sunscreen applied for each consumer will be based on their specific attributes including body size, the amount of body hair and sensitivity to the sun." The article also pointed out that a study published earlier this year in the Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology indicated that using sunscreens that have an SPF that is higher than 50 is beneficial.

Being Married May Reduce Risk Of Heart Disease, Cardiovascular Death, Review Suggests.

The New York Times (6/29, Bakalar, 19.33M) reported that a review suggests "being married may reduce the risk of

heart disease and cardiovascular death." The findings were published in the BMJ.

Researchers Developing Artificial Ovary To Help Young Cancer Patients Preserve Fertility.

On its website, CNN (7/1, Scutti, 82.6M) reports a group of Danish researchers developing an artificial ovary "have engineered a 'scaffold' on which early-stage cells can develop into functional ovarian follicles," which could help younger cancer patients preserve their "fertility from the impact of cancer treatments, experts say." Researchers will present the study Monday at the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology annual meeting in Barcelona, Spain.

Immunotherapy "Revolution" Is "Greatest Hope Yet" For Beating Cancer.

The Telegraph (UK) (7/2, Vonderheide, 976K) reports that new cancer treatments "that harness the patient's immune system mark the 'end of the beginning' of the fight against cancer." The story of immunotherapy drugs "has radically altered how we treat some of the most common and deadly cancers – and our work applying those approaches to tackle even more of them."

FDA Approves First Drug To Reduce Excessive Sweating.

The AP (6/29, Johnson) reported that on June 29, the Food and Drug Administration "approved the first drug developed specifically to reduce excessive sweating," Qbrexza (glycopyrronium), manufactured by Dermira. The drug will be "inside a cloth wiped over the skin daily to block sweat glands from activating." The drug will start being available in October.

Reuters (6/29, Mishra) reported, "Currently, Allergan's (AGN.N) Botox injection is used to treat" excessive sweating, and "other treatments include antiperspirants and costlier alternatives such as laser therapy, as well as localized surgery like liposuction to remove sweat glands." Cowen analysts have estimated the drug could have "sales of \$250 million to \$300 million by 2023."

Newsweek (6/29, Spear, 2.18M) reported that "in one study, 53 percent of patients said Qbrexza reduced sweat production by roughly half, versus 28 percent in a comparison group using a non-medicated cloth, the drug company reported."

Also covering the story were Forbes (6/30, Lee, 10.34M) and TIME (6/30, Ducharme, 19.27M).

CDC Warns Of Shingrix Vaccine Shortage. CBS News (6/29, 6.78M) reported on its website that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has warned about a shortage of the Shingrix shingles vaccine. On "CBS This Morning" on June 30, Dr. David Agus said, "It's a really potent, excellent vaccine. I got it myself. And this is a vaccine where the old vaccine worked 30, 40 percent of the time. This is 97 percent of the time." He offered advice for people attempting to find the vaccine, adding, "Call ahead to a pharmacy. Make sure they have it. You can get it at a pharmacy, your doctor's office."

The Philadelphia Inquirer (6/29, Schaefer, 1.07M) reported on the high demand for the Shingrix vaccine, pointing out that "a quick check of some pharmacies in the Philadelphia region found the vaccine was still available, but not at all locations." The Inquirer reported that Shingrix's maker, GlaxoSmithKline, "has recommended that people who need the second of the two-dose series of the vaccine get priority."

Police Investigate Elder Abuse Against Comic Book Creator Stan Lee, 95. The AP (6/30, Dalton) reported that, after the death last July of Joan, "his wife of 69 years and partner in all things," comic book creator Stan Lee, 95, "has found himself in the middle of a fight over his finances and legacy that has led to lawsuits, a restraining order and a police investigation of elder abuse." The article used Lee's case to make the larger point that "Lee's status as a celebrity in declining mental health and vulnerable to exploitation has many precedents and may become increasingly common as a wave of wealthy baby boomers reaches old age." A restraining order against a memorabilia collector alleged that the collector "isolated him from associates, friends and relatives, which is considered a form of elder abuse."

Mississippi Public Agencies Must Now Cover Increased Share Of Worker Pensions. The AP (6/29, Amy) reported, "Public agencies in Mississippi will have to contribute another \$100 million toward worker pensions beginning July 1, 2019, after a vote by the state Public Employees Retirement System's

board." Employers will now be required to provide 17.4 percent of a worker's salary, up from 15.75 percent, while workers will continue to contribute 9% of their own paychecks. The state's retirement system currently has 61 percent of the assets needed to cover future benefits. approved changes indicate that the state's retirement plan will be 100 percent funded by 2047, although that remains heavily reliant on the projected rate of investment returns.

Surveys: Financially Independent Millenials Are Happier Than Those With Money Worries. CNBC (7/1, 4.81M) reports on its website that a decade-long study by the National Endowment for Financial Education found that financially independent millenials tended to be more confident and happier overall. NEFE Chief Executive Officer Ted Beck said that the path to financial independence begins long before college, urging parents to have regular discussions with their children on financial responsibility. Similarly, a recent survey from T. Rowe Price found that "young adults who discussed money with their parents are more likely to have a budget, more likely to have an emergency fund, more likely to put 10 percent or more of their income toward savings and more likely to have a retirement account."

Retirees Increasingly Becoming Entrepreneurs, Cites AARP Study. As part of a series, "Silver Linings," on the issues of New Hampshire's aging population, the New Hampshire Union Leader (7/1, Baker, 122K) reports the rising number of retirees starting businesses as entrepreneurs. The article cites Small Business Administration data that the number of people aged 62 and older who are self-employed is "rising" nationwide. It also cites a 2015 AARP survey that "only" 10 percent of New Hampshire residents aged 50 and older plan to retire and never return to work.

Study Reveals Views On Social Media Bias. The Washington Times (6/29, Sabes, 460K) reported that a new Pew Research Center poll of about 5,000 people found that 85 percent of Republicans believe social media sites tend to bias what they show, and 72 percent of Americans believe social media sites censor political views. Younger adults tended to trust social medias sites more than older respondents,

with 67 percent of those 18 to 29 years of age saying that the websites censor views, while 81 percent of “seniors” believe that they do.

Hospitals Across US Experiencing Shortages Of Beds For Children With Mental Health Illnesses.

NBC Nightly News (6/29, story 8, 4:05, Holt, 6.8M) reported on a “growing crisis” in American hospitals: “there are simply not enough beds to accommodate kids who need to be hospitalized” for mental illnesses. According to NBC News, “the crisis is nationwide, with nearly a 40-percent increase in psychiatric visits to emergency rooms.” One hospital in Kansas said it turned away 2,000 children last year alone, NBC added.

Colorado Hospital Sues Patient For Surgery Bill, Highlighting Alleged Price Gouging.

The Denver Post (6/29, Osher, 755K) reported on a patient in Colorado who underwent spinal-fusion surgery at the nonprofit St. Anthony North Health Campus and was later sued by the hospital for \$229,112.13 for unpaid medical bills. The article said the case highlights “a growing conflict over skyrocketing health care costs pitting employer-based, self-funded insurance plans against hospitals,” and added that “a growing number of employers are refusing to pay the full amount of the hospital bills of their workers due to alleged price gouging by the hospitals.” The piece continued, “As justification, they point to data that consultants have unearthed showing wide disparities in hospital billing.”

Oklahoma Drafts Rules To Regulate Medical Marijuana Following Successful Legalization.

The AP (6/30) reported that Oklahomans voted to legalize medical marijuana Tuesday “via State Question 788, which passed with about 57 percent support in an election with unusually high turnout.” Now, the state health department is circulating draft rules to regulate medical marijuana licenses for patients, caregivers, and businesses in a move to tighten the new legislation that the AP said is “broad.” The proposed rules would ban “dispensaries near schools, indoor smoking in public places and psychoactive gummy bears,” and “lay out guidance for doctors interested in recommending marijuana, patients who want to

use it and businesses looking to grow, process or sell it.”

Many Families Still Live With Arsenic, Lead In Everett, Washington.

The AP (6/30) reported that “nearly three decades” after Washington state discovered large amounts of arsenic and lead in properties surrounding a former smelter site in Everett, “about 150 homeowners are still waiting for the contamination to be cleaned up.” So far, about 350 properties have been cleaned up using a \$34 million settlement, but the fund only has enough to remediate 20 more properties in 2019.

Delaware Lawmakers Vote To Ban Powdered Alcohol.

The AP (6/30, Chase) reported that Delaware lawmakers gave final approval to a bill “outlawing the manufacture, sale and use of powdered alcoholic beverages.” Enactment of the legislation would make Delaware the 37th state to ban “powdered substances that form alcoholic drinks when reconstituted with liquid.” According to the AP, “the American Medical Association has called for a nationwide ban on powdered alcohol, which critics say carries the risk of more potent drinks and harmful overconsumption.”

Angelman Syndrome Receives Its Own Medical Code.

The Atlantic (6/29, Yong, 3.08M) reported that Angelman syndrome has been granted its own medical code, Q93.51, under the International Classification of Diseases. The article said the medical standard allows researchers “to interrogate large databases and find out how many patients have a particular disorder, what secondary problems they experience, what treatments they typically receive, how many times they’re admitted to the hospital, and more. Insurers use them to decide what treatments should be reimbursed.”

California Vaccine Skeptic Put On Probation By State Medical Board.

The Los Angeles Times (6/29, Karlamangla, 4.03M) reported that the Medical Board of California has ordered 35 months’ probation for Dr. Bob Sears, “an Orange County pediatrician well-known for being sympathetic to parents opposed to vaccines.” According to the Times, “Sears can keep practicing medicine but will be required to take 40 hours of medical education courses a

year, as well as an ethics class, and also be monitored by a fellow doctor.” In addition, he “must notify all hospital and medical facilities where he practices of the order and is not allowed to supervise physician assistants or nurse practitioners.”

Opinion: Antibacterial Debate Must Weigh Risks, Benefits.

Bloomberg View (6/29, 4.46M) opinion columnist Faye Flam wrote about the safety concerns surrounding the antibacterial chemical triclosan, and highlighted recent evidence which showed the chemical can have negative side effects. Flam wrote, “There’s only one rational way out of this bind: to think about safety not as a black or white issue, but to consider risk-benefit ratios.” Flam said “the FDA did consider both sides of the equation in 2016, when it required companies to phase triclosan out of soaps and body washes, citing safety concerns and lack of evidence for any benefit.”

Woman’s Facebook Post Says Menthol Shaving Cream Soothes Sunburns.

TODAY (6/29, Murray, 1.19M) reported that in a Facebook post, a woman discusses her “trick to getting rid of sunburn,” which is “applying menthol shaving cream on the burn, which the poster said ‘takes the heat out’ and soothes skin.” However, “dermatologists say it’s no magic solution for sunburns, although it might provide some relief.”

AMA President-Elect Profiled. The AP (7/1, Severino) profiles Patrice Harris, MD, who “will become the 174th president of the AMA in June 2019, and is now serving as president-elect.” Dr. Harris “was elected to the post earlier this month.” The AP adds, “In her vision for the AMA, Harris said she wants to improve the education of up and coming medical professionals.” The article also points out that Dr. Harris “served on the American Psychiatric Association board and was later named by the APA as a delegate to the AMA.”

AARP Dedicates \$60 Million To Dementia, Alzheimer’s Disease Research Fund.

Health IT Analytics (6/29) reported the AARP’s Brain Health Fund has vowed to “invest \$60 million in the Dementia Discovery Fund (DDF) to accelerate the development of innovative treatments for

dementia and Alzheimer’s disease.” The research is considered “vital for dementia treatment as the condition becomes more and more prevalent,” the piece said, adding, “NIH also recently convened a group of leading experts to discuss how to best foster a collaborative research environment and use precision medicine to ultimately discover a cure for these chronic, degenerative conditions.”

Ohio, Washington Officials Confirm West Nile Virus-Carrying Mosquitoes.

Newsweek (6/29, Spear, 2.18M) reported Ohio and Washington health officials “are urging people to protect themselves against mosquitoes after insects in these states tested positive for the West Nile virus.” Data from the Ohio Department of Health showed “mosquitoes near Alexandria, Johnstown and Harrison Township in Ohio had the virus,” while Washington officials “discovered a pool of mosquitos that tested positive for the virus in Benton County.” The article added that the National Institutes of Health says severe cases of West Nile virus in humans can “affect the nervous system, and trigger conditions including meningitis, and inflammation of the brain called encephalitis.”

Michigan’s Detroit Area Becoming A “Hotspot” For Vaccination Waivers, Study Suggests.

The Detroit News (7/1, 710K) reports that according to health researchers, a growing number of “parents choosing not to vaccinate their children for non-medical reasons” has led to the rise of “‘hotspots’ across the country and in Metro Detroit.” The piece says that since 2009, “the number of kindergarten-age children enrolling in school with non-medical waivers has climbed in 12 of 18 states that allow the exemptions, according to a peer-reviewed study published June 12 in the Public Library of Science journal PLOS Medicine.” Cities including “Troy, Warren and Detroit were among the areas in Michigan where more than 400 kindergartners had received the non-medical vaccination exemptions, according to the PLOS report.”

WPost: Stalling Malaria Fight Could Jeopardize Children’s Lives.

The Washington Post (7/1, 15.68M) editorial says that while the number of malaria cases and deaths have declined steadily for a decade and a half as “global public-health officials have been at war”

with the disease, the “battle shows signs of stalling.” In 2016, “the number of malaria cases went up to 215 million, from 210 million the year before,” the Post says, adding that malaria “kills more than 445,000 people annually, about 70 percent of them children under 5 years old.” The Post adds that the fight against malaria will be won “by action on many fronts. A stall, after so much promise, would be terrible and costly.”

Indiana Resident Contracts Rare Flu Strain After Exposure To Pigs At Fair.

The Indianapolis Star (7/1, Fittes, 477K) reports health officials are warning Indiana residents “to take preventative measures this fair season, after an Indiana resident caught the influenza virus following a visit to a county fair.” In what is “the first human case of the H3N2 influenza in the Indiana since 2013, and first case reported nationwide this year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,” a resident has been sickened with a flu strain “commonly associated with contact with pigs, the Indiana State Department of Health and Indiana Board of Animal Health said in a statement Friday.”

Op-Ed: New Chemotherapy Study Underscores Importance Of Non-Inferiority Trials.

Contributor Dr. Conor Lavelle wrote for Quartz (6/29, 788K) that a study published in New England Journal of Medicine assessing the effectiveness of “chemotherapy for a specific, common variant of breast cancer...found that thousands of women may not actually need to undergo the intensive, painful treatment.” Dr. Lavelle considers this “another important victory for something called a ‘non-inferiority trial,’” which “is arguably our most powerful weapon in the war against unnecessary or harmful pharmaceuticals – and it starts with putting people first.”

Loved One’s Cancer Diagnosis Can Spur Others To Seek Preventive Care.

U.S. News & World Report (6/29, Howley, 1.97M) examined the impact of watching a loved one endure cancer treatment, noting it “can have a hyper-focusing effect for many people.” The article spotlighted the case of one woman who was diagnosed with breast cancer and whose daughter after determining that the family had a history of “known breast-cancer causing mutation” on their BRCA2 genes. The ordeal caused the

daughter to undergo genetic testing, finding that she “tested positive for the same mutation as her mother” and prompting her to undergo a double mastectomy. The piece noted that the National Cancer Institute reports “about 69 percent of women who inherit a harmful BRCA2 mutation will develop breast cancer by the age of 80.”

Congress Passes Firefighter Cancer Registry Act.

The Springfield (MA) Republican (6/29, Flynn, 412K) reported Congress has passed the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act, which “allows the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention under the Secretary of Health and Human Services to create a voluntary and inclusive national registry that would allow scientists and others to track job-related cancer incidence for both career and volunteer firefighters.” The legislation also “authorizes \$2.5 million for each of the fiscal years 2018 through 2022 to carry out this broader collection of data to help improve measures to protect firefighters.” The piece added that the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health in 2010 “began a five-year study of nearly 30,000 firefighters” which found they “have a greater number of cancer diagnoses and cancer-related deaths,” which helped spur the creation of the legislation.

Amazon’s Latest Deal Shows It Plans To Disrupt How Industry Cares For Chronically Ill.

STAT Plus (6/29, Ross, Subscription Publication, 27K) reported that Amazon’s acquisition of the home delivery pharmacy PillPack makes clear the company’s ambitions to “not only fundamentally change treatment of U.S. patients, it wants a large chunk of the \$370 billion market for selling and distributing their prescription drugs.” The PillPack deal “gives Amazon the infrastructure to become a national seller of prescription drugs,” noting that “PillPack is already an in-network pharmacy for all the largest pharmacy benefit managers.” STAT Plus adds, “To turn the corner in the pharmacy business – and lower costs within its own ranks – Amazon will need to figure out how to improve services for the chronically ill population.”

US Judge Rules AbbVie, AndroGel Partner Owe \$448 Million In Antitrust Case.

Reuters (6/29, Raymond) reported that on June 29, US District Judge Harvey Bartle in

Philadelphia ruled “that pharmaceutical company AbbVie Inc. used sham litigation to illegally prevent generic versions of testosterone replacement drug AndroGel from getting to market and ordered the drugmaker and its partner to pay \$448 million.” The ruling was for an antitrust suit filed in 2014 by the FTC against both AbbVie and partner Besins Healthcare. The FTC had alleged AbbVie and Besins filed “baseless patent infringement lawsuits in 2011 against generic drugmakers Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd and Perrigo Company to delay the launch of their generic versions of AndroGel.”

Amazon’s PillPack Deal May Provide It With Access To Sensitive Health Data.

The Wall Street Journal (7/1, Stevens, Terlep, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) reports that Amazon’s acquisition of PillPack will provide it with information about people’s prescriptions, a move into the health and medical records space which the Journal describes as much more detailed than Amazon’s previous efforts to track customers’ purchases of things such as movies or toiletries. The Journal reports that an Amazon spokeswoman said the company plans to comply with regulations, including HIPAA.

WSJournal: Amazon’s PillPack Deal Will Benefit Consumers, Force Competitors To Improve. The Wall Street Journal (6/29, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) editorialized that Amazon’s acquisition of online pharmacy PillPack will enable the company to grow rapidly to compete with drugstore industry giants. The combination will help patients get drugs faster and cheaper and will force competitors to improve service, the Journal adds. The article concludes Amazon’s decision to enter the drug delivery industry is welcome, and could benefit consumers in the long run.

Similarly, a Forbes (6/29, 10.34M) column written by Christopher Walton suggested that Amazon’s entry into the industry will likely have an impact on CVS and Walgreens.

Meanwhile, for Bloomberg View (6/29, 4.46M), Faye Flam wrote, “If Amazon’s move to disrupt health care is going to make Americans any healthier, the improvement is most likely to take place in the business of getting prescription drugs to patients more reliably.”

More Suits Filed Against Florida Drugmaker Accused Of Selling Contaminated Medicines.

The South Florida Sun Sentinel (6/29, Hurtbise, 601K) reported that more suits have been filed against South Florida drugmaker PharmaTech LLC and its principals and distributors. The company is now facing seven suits “on behalf of patients said to have been sickened or killed, including three infants who reportedly died after being given a liquid stool softener made by the company.” The company vacated its Davie, FL plant in June 2017 following FDA inspection reports in August 2016 and May 2017 that “identified numerous quality control deficiencies in its manufacturing processes,” the Sentinel reported. The latest suit, filed in June in Broward County Circuit Court, identified the victim of an outbreak of water-borne bacteria “as Londyn Simone Manuel, who was born with a congenital heart defect in December 2016, and died before turning 8 months old after being given liquid docusate” made by the company.

District Court Extends Indivior’s Order Blocking Launch Of US Generic Addiction Treatment.

Reuters (6/29, Varghese) reported that on June 29, the US Court for the District of New Jersey “extended a restraining order blocking” Mylan NV and Dr. Reddy’s from launching a generic version of Indivior’s Suboxone (buprenorphine and naloxone) Film, an opioid addiction treatment that generates around 80% of Indivior’s revenue. “Indivior said its temporary restraining order (TRO) issued on June 15 had been extended for another 14 days, during which time the U.S. court for the District of New Jersey will consider the application and issue a ruling on the injunction.”

FDA Cites Mylan For Morgantown Plant Manufacturing Issues.

The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (6/29, Sabatini, 507K) reported that on June 28, Mylan announced the FDA cited it in April for manufacturing issues at its Morgantown, WV plant. Among the issues an FDA inspection report cited were “numerous instances of a lack of appropriate oversight by the quality unit,” along with problems related to “cleaning procedures used to prevent cross-contamination of drug ingredients.” In a statement, Mylan said, “The company has submitted a comprehensive

response to the agency and committed to a robust improvement plan.”

Report: Nearly All Online Pharmacies Illegal. Newsweek (7/1, Hugo, 2.18M) reports that “if you buy drugs from an online pharmacy, there’s a good chance that exchange is illegal – or worse.” In a report on darknet opioid sales, the Center for Safe Internet Pharmacies “found that people on both the darknet and surface web sell drugs like opioid painkillers through online ‘pharmacies,’ 97 percent of which operate illegally, according to the FDA.” Many of these online “pharmacies” are actually “drug-dealing websites set up to look like they simply sell prescription pills to those in need, and some claim to offer prescriptions.” CSIP Executive Director Marjorie Clifton “said that some non-opioid-selling pharmacies are legal, if they follow certain rules,” such as having “brick-and-mortar locations,” as well as being “licensed in every state that they sell to.”

Missouri Appeals Court Rejects \$55 Million Verdict Against Johnson & Johnson In Talc Powder Suit. Reuters (6/29, Bellon) reported that on June 29, a Missouri appeals court “threw out a \$55 million verdict against Johnson & Johnson in a lawsuit by a woman who claimed she developed ovarian cancer after using talc-based products, including J&J’s baby powder.” The appeals court’s decision to dismiss the 2016 verdict cited “a 2017 U.S. Supreme Court decision that limits where companies can be sued for personal injuries” and that found that “state courts cannot hear claims against companies that are not based in the state or when the alleged injuries did not occur there.” In a statement, J&J “said it was extremely pleased with the court’s decision to recognize that the trial should have never occurred.”

FDA Approves Pulmonx’s Valve For Emphysema. Reuters (6/29, Mitra) reported that on June 29, the Food and Drug Administration “approved Pulmonx Inc.’s valve to treat” emphysema. The valve works by being “permanently implanted using a catheter in the affected part of a patient’s lung,” then regulating “the airflow to the healthier parts” of the lung. The average patient “may need four valves and depending upon the severity of emphysema, the

cost of treatment could go up to \$10,000 per patient.”

Mass Device (6/29, Perriello) reported that the FDA “granted pre-market approval under its breakthrough devices designation,” based upon “a 190-patient study comparing treatment with Zephyr, plus standard medical management and pulmonary rehabilitation, to treatment with standard medical management and rehab only.” The trial benchmark “was at least a 15% improvement in pulmonary function score,” and around “47.7% of patients in the Zephyr arm met that mark, compared with 16.8% of the control arm, according to the FDA.”

NYC Expands Lead Testing Program For Children. The New York Times (7/1, A18, Ferré-Sadurní, 19.33M) reported that in New York City, “the exact number of children residing in public housing poisoned by lead was never disclosed.” This past weekend, however, “the city department of health offered a number,” saying that “820 children younger than 6 were found to have elevated levels of lead in their blood between 2012 and 2016.”

AM New York (7/1, Cook, Trangle, 591K) reports on its website that on July 1, New York City Mayor Bill De Blasio’s Administration announced an expansion to a program to test lead levels in children. The city now will start “environmental investigations for all children younger than 18 who test above a blood lead level (BLL) of 5 micrograms per deciliter,” an adjustment from the previous level of “10 micrograms per deciliter.” The city health department has already started “investigations for children at NYCHA developments and will implement the new rules for the rest of the city by the end of the year, according to the mayor’s office.” The news follows the “day after a Daily News report that revealed the city knew of more than 800 children living in NYCHA apartments between 2012 and 2016 who had blood lead levels between 5 and 9 micrograms per deciliter.”

The New York Post (7/1, Hicks, 4.46M) reports, “As many as 820 children in the city’s housing projects tested for elevated levels of lead, but health officials failed to follow up and inspect their apartments, City Hall admitted Saturday.” Despite the CDC in 2012 implementing a recommendation “that authorities take action if children test positive for having more than 5 micrograms of the compound in their blood,” New

York City “health officials continued to use the CDC’s old 10-microgram standard, meaning these 820 positive tests would not have been forwarded by city health officials to the New York City Housing Authority and would not have triggered a home inspection – potentially allowing the exposure to continue.”

Learning To Play Piano May Help Children Build Up Language Skills, Study Indicates.

TIME (7/1, Ducharme, 19.27M) reported research indicates learning to play the piano may help children “build up their language skills.” As youngsters’ “ears become trained to distinguish between different pitches and tones at the piano...they also seem to get better at parsing subtle differences between spoken words, a key element of language acquisition,” the study revealed. The findings were published online in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Tech Company CEO: Children Need To Be Guided Through Technology Thoughtfully.

In an opinion piece in USA Today (6/30, Ingram-Cauchy, Contributor, 11.4M), Pete Ingram-Cauchy, “CEO of iD Tech Camps, a STEM education company based in” California, wrote that even though “technology has its downsides...it holds untold promise and it is not going away.” Children “just need to be guided through it thoughtfully and led to a place of creativity and passion.”

Factors Behind Lagging Mainstream Adoption Of Telemedicine Examined.

CNBC (6/30, Farr, 4.81M) examined factors behind lagging mainstream adoption of telemedicine. The primary and “most important” factor “is that many U.S. consumers are still not aware they have the option to chat with their doctor over the phone or via video.” In addition, patients who have “heard of telemedicine apps often fear the expense, especially if it’s unclear whether they can use their health insurance.” What’s more, clinicians “who are willing to work with app makers are inexperienced, or low-quality.” Many clinicians “are afraid of liability, as it’s possible to miss something during a remote visit,” and “reimbursement questions” remain .

Drivers For Car Services, Ride-Hailing Apps In New York Now Able To Get

Coverage For Vision Care. The AP (6/29, Matthews) reported that starting July 1 in New York, “drivers for car services and ride-hailing apps like Uber and Lyft” will “now be able to get coverage for vision care as well as phone or video appointments with doctors, industry representatives announced.” This “coverage for an estimated 43,000 drivers statewide will be paid for by the Black Car Fund, a workers’ compensation fund for car-service drivers that is funded by a 2.5 percent surcharge on each ride.”

Scientists’ Discovery Is “First Step” To Packaging Insulin In Pill.

The Boston Globe (7/2, 945K) reports that two developments – “a newly released study and the publication of new clinical trial data” – describe “advances toward an alternative approach” to diabetes management: “the delivery of blood-sugar-regulating hormones in a pill, long regarded as the ‘holy grail’ of diabetes treatment.” The study, “by University of California Santa Barbara and Harvard University scientists, demonstrated a technical breakthrough in the oral delivery of insulin, a hormone produced in the pancreas that allows the body to absorb and store sugar from the blood.” This discovery “is the first step in a longer process to package insulin in a pill that could take many years.” Enclosing insulin “in a particular ionic liquid, aptly named CAGE, has the dual benefit of protecting the hormone from stomach acid and promoting its absorption through layers of mucous and the intestinal wall. That could help it reach the liver.” One promising note, “experts say, is that the two ingredients of CAGE, choline and geranic acid, are generally regarded as safe by the Food and Drug Administration.”

Roche Encouraged By Tecentriq Trial Results.

Reuters (7/2) reports Swiss drugmaker Roche “said on Monday that a trial showed its immunotherapy Tecentriq plus the chemotherapy Abraxane significantly reduced the risk of disease worsening or death in people with metastatic triple negative breast cancer.” The company, “citing its IMpassion130 study, said it also recorded an encouraging overall survival benefit for the PD-L1 positive population, whose tumors express a protein that help them evade immune system detection, at interim analysis.”

Angela Garbes' New Book "Like A Mother" Discussed.

ABC's Good Morning America (7/2, Kindelan, 4.2M) discusses mother of two and author Angela Garbes' new book, "Like a Mother: A Feminist Journey Through the Science and Culture of Pregnancy," which GMA says "gives women straight talk on pregnancy, their bodies and life after giving birth." One topic the book covers is "lack of post-delivery care for new moms." Garbes' interest in post-delivery care for moms "stemmed from hip pain she suffered after giving birth." The piece adds that the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists "recently launched an initiative to address the issue of postpartum care for new moms called 'the fourth trimester.'"

Hawaii Bans Sale Of Sunscreens Containing Oxybenzone, Octinoxate.

NPR (7/2, Fulton, 3.55M) reports Hawaii's governor David Ige is expected "to sign the world's first ban on the sale of sunscreens containing the chemicals oxybenzone and octinoxate this week." The state is "banning the products because of concerns they may be harming one of the state's biggest attractions – coral reefs." Both chemicals "have had the Food and Drug Administration's OK for decades, but in recent years, some environmental research has suggested octinoxate can contribute to coral bleaching and that oxybenzone exposure leads to the death of baby coral."

GLOBAL HEALTH

Britain's NHS To Reduce "Unnecessary Or Risky Procedures."

The AP (6/30) reported that Britain's NHS has proposed cutting back on operations including breast reductions and anti-snoring treatments as part of plans to save money and reduce "unnecessary or risky procedures." NHS medical director Stephen Powis said the agency "could save an estimated 200 million pounds (\$264 million) a year by tightening the criteria for treatments where the risks could outweigh the benefits." According to the AP, "the list of 17 treatments under consideration to be halted or reduced includes tonsil removals and procedures for carpal tunnel, hemorrhoids and varicose veins."

UK's NHS Making Plans To Ensure Ample Medical Supplies After Brexit.

The AP (7/1) reports that Britain's National Health Service "is making plans to ensure that medical supplies will be available if Britain leaves the European Union without a trade deal." NHS chief Simon Stevens said Sunday there is "significant planning" underway to make sure the NHS "can cope with a no-deal Brexit without a disruption in services." Stevens explained that Britain's health agency and other governmental departments are working to make sure supplies of medicine and medical equipment can still be accessed under various Brexit scenarios, according to the AP.

Reuters (7/1) reports that Stevens said the NHS is "working with pharmaceutical companies to make sure there will be no breakdown in supply if there is no deal with the EU."

Irish Cancer Patients Received Faulty Tests From US-Based Labs.

The CBS Evening News (6/29, story 7, 2:45, Glor, 5.29M) reported American laboratories Quest Diagnostics and Clinical Pathology Laboratories (CPL) "are coming under scrutiny because of faulty cancer tests in Ireland," where hundreds of women "were told they tested negative, only to find out years later they had cancer all along." Correspondent Roxana Saberi reported that Quest and CPL along with "an Irish lab processed smear tests for Ireland's health service. A government review four years ago found that the labs mistakenly cleared more than 200 women...who were later diagnosed with cervical cancer." Since that time, "18 of those women have died. But most of the women affected were never told until one of them...discovered a page from that review in her medical file."

Global Fund Combating AIDS, TB, Malaria Cancels Funding For North Korean Public Health Efforts.

Science Magazine (6/29, Stone, 441K) reported The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria announced that effective June 30, it will revoke its grants to North Korea, a revelation which "leaves the isolated nation with about 1 year to line up a new source of medicines and diagnostics to combat a deepening [tuberculosis] crisis." Medical researchers say they have "not gotten any clarity on why they are doing this," adding that the fund's financial contributions of more than \$100 million to TB and malaria control

in the country “has been the biggest outside investment ever in public health in North Korea.”

Novartis, Gilead CAR-T Therapies Both Gain European Panel Recommendation.

Reuters (6/29, Miller) reported that rival cancer therapies from Gilead Sciences and Novartis both won recommendations from the European Medicines Agency’s Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use. The committee recommended both Gilead’s Yescarta (axicabtagene ciloleucel) and Novartis’ Kymriah (tisagenlecleucel) for diffuse large B cell lymphoma, while it also recommended Yescarta for primary mediastinal B cell lymphoma and Kymriah for B cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Both of the CAR-T therapies are single-use treatments “in which immune cells are removed from patients, genetically engineered in the laboratory using disabled virus to target their blood cancers, and then re-infused.” Both drugs range in price in the US from between \$373,000 and \$475,000, depending on the cancer being treated.

Fierce Pharma (6/29, Sagonowsky) reported that both treatments received US approval several months ago. One reason for the high cost of the drugs “is their unique, patient-specific manufacturing,” as “CAR-T drugs are made of re-engineered T cells collected from each patient, which are then infused back into the patient to attack cancer.” Gilead recently said it will build “a CAR-T manufacturing plant at the Amsterdam airport in an effort to cut down on logistics and manufacturing turnaround time.”

AstraZeneca Receives “Speedy Approvals” For Cancer Drugs In Japan.

Reuters (7/2) reports AstraZeneca has won “rapid regulatory approval for new uses of two of its important cancer drugs in Japan, less than six months after the first global approvals in Western markets.” The decisions by the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare “reflect an increased urgency by officials in the country to access modern medicines, after many years of slow adoption.”

Ghana Reports H5 Bird Flu Outbreaks.

Reuters (6/29, Trompiz) reported that Ghana announced two outbreaks of “highly pathogenic H5 bird flu” on farms in the country. According to Reuters, “one of the outbreaks killed 5,431 birds

out of an 11,000-strong flock on a farm in Boankra in the Ashanti region, while the other killed 5,935 out of 13,188 birds on a farm in Nkwaw in the Eastern region.”

Researchers Warn That Gay Hate Climate In Indonesia Is Fueling HIV Epidemic.

The AP (7/2, Wright) reports on an “out-of-control but little-acknowledged epidemic of HIV among gay men in Indonesia that researchers say is being fueled by a gay hate climate whipped up by the country’s conservative political and religious leaders.” A Human Rights Watch report released Monday explained that “highly publicized police raids targeting gay men and a vicious outpouring of anti-LGBT rhetoric from officials and other influential figures since early 2016 have caused significant disruption to HIV awareness and testing programs.”

TIME (7/2, Haynes, 19.27M) reports Kyle Knight, an LGBT rights researcher at Human Rights Watch and author of the report, said, “What’s shifted in the last two years is that the government and police have made it abundantly clear that it’s perfectly okay to hate LGBT people and to act on it.” He cautioned, “Unless certain steps are taken to dial back on these raids, to create safe spaces for those to gather to gain information, to get safety, sense of dignity, community and privacy, this will spin out of control not just from a human rights perspective, but also from a public health perspective.” TIME adds, “Combined with the crackdown and heightened discrimination against LGBT people, the impending health crisis threatens to force the community into total retreat.”

India Celebrates End Of Nipah Virus Outbreak With Music Video.

NPR (7/1, Thiagarajan, 3.55M) reports India’s Nipah virus outbreak “in May had all ingredients of an-edge-of-the-seat medical thriller” as the nation battled “one of the most lethal pathogens of our times.” The article says, “Three weeks after Nipah had been identified as a cause of the outbreak, on June 10, Kerala’s Minister for Health, K.K. Shylaja, declared that the state was Nipah-free. Of the 19 cases, two patients have recovered.” After the outbreak was declared over, “a group of musicians and filmmakers decided to make a video to celebrate.”

WTO Upholds Australia's Plain-Packaging Law.

Fortune (6/29, Meyer, 3.91M) reported in continuing coverage that the WTO last week ruled in favor of Australia's plain-packaging laws and said the country "is free to continue selling cigarettes in drab, olive-colored packaging without no branding beyond the manufacturer's name in small print, and with large and graphic health warnings dominating the packaging." The article said the WTO's decision "will likely have major ramifications around the world."

Bloomberg View (7/1, 4.46M) columnist David Fickling says "the world's ugliest cigarette packets aren't going away." Fickling says claims that Australian plain packaging does not make much of a difference do not "stand up to a lot of scrutiny: Studies supporting that claim have either been based on non-public data that can't be checked, or commissioned by the industry, or both, according to a 2016 analysis by Australia's Department of Health."

Russians Protest Pension Age Hike.

Reuters (7/1) reports that although "thousands of Russians protested on Sunday over a government decision to increase the retirement age...there were no demonstrations in the cities hosting the World Cup because of security restrictions in force during the tournament." Published photos of the protest featured individuals with signs saying "Raise the pension, not the pension age!" and "Hands off our pensions!" A "close ally of President Vladimir Putin" last month stated "that the government wanted to raise the retirement age for men by five years, to 65 from 60, and for women by eight years, to 63 from 55," which supposedly is "to ease intense pressure on state coffers," per Reuters, while "critics say the retirement age in many regions is higher than life expectancy." Some polls reported Putin's approval rating dropped from 75 to 69 percent following the announcement.

Son Debates Assisted Dying Amid Mother's Alzheimer's Diagnosis.

Bernard Lyall writes in The Guardian (UK) (7/1, 4.03M) about his mother's Alzheimer's diagnosis, saying that "she who has lived entirely by her wits has now lost them" to a word carrying "the ring of finality." Lyall says despite several emotional "blows," his mother retained "her instinct to put on a brave face, try to ignore it and muddle through

regardless," which "was the way her generation coped," but has proved "disastrous" for her carers, because "whenever we hoped she'd understand some new limitation, or accept a new level of care, we had to choose between complicity in a face-saving but ultimately pointless pretence and provoking unreasoning anger." While "Kath had argued for the right to die, has a living will, and would have been horrified to see herself like this," now Lyall says that as "the power to let her go has fallen to me, it's not so simple." Lyall wonders whether someone's "younger self" should "be allowed to make such decisions about the person they are now."

NATIONAL NEWS

Trump Predicts Quick Supreme Court Confirmation "If I Pick The Right Person."

During an interview Sunday with Fox News' Sunday Morning Futures (7/1, Bartiromo, 1.79M), the President vowed he would "pick somebody who is outstanding" to replace retiring Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy. He also predicted that while Democrats would work to resist his choice, "I think it will go quickly if I pick the right person." The Washington Examiner (7/1, Chaitin, 340K) reports the President also predicted a "big week" ahead, declaring in a tweet Sunday he will be focused on deciding who he will nominate to succeed Kennedy.

Media reports, however, cast the President as ready for a fight with Democrats over his pick. On ABC World News Tonight (7/1, story 4, 2:50, Llamas, 14.63M), for example, Tara Palmeri said Trump is "preparing for battle tonight over his highly anticipated Supreme Court pick." Trump: "It's probably going to be vicious because the other side, all they can do obstruct and resist. You know, their whole thing is resist." NBC Nightly News (7/1, story 6, 2:00, Jackson, 8.26M) reported, "A vicious but fast fight. That's what President Trump says he expects once he announces the second Supreme Court nominee of his Administration" next week under "his self-imposed deadline." Kelly O'Donnell said the President, who is "on the trail this week, is already touting the influence of his high court selection to rally his own base."

The CBS Weekend News (7/1, story 4, 2:40, Quijano, 5.32M) reported that while Trump "voiced confidence that his yet-to-be-announced Supreme Court nominee will be confirmed soon," his choice

"needs the backing of nearly all Senate Republicans." According to the Wall Street Journal (7/1, Armour, Nicholas, Subscription Publication, 6.13M), White House officials are also meeting with Democrats, including the three who voted last year for Justice Neil Gorsuch: Sens. Joe Manchin, Heidi Heitkamp and Joe Donnelly.

USA Today (7/1, Estepa, 11.4M) reports that while Trump said he is "going to pick someone who is outstanding," the "eventual nominee already faces a hurdle: Republicans hold a slim 51-49 majority in the Senate, and Sen. John McCain is out as he battles brain cancer. That means the president needs to cater to senators on both sides of the aisle if he hopes to get a majority to vote in favor of his pick."

Reports also continue to cast the issue of abortion as likely to be a focal point of the eventual nominee's confirmation hearings. Breitbart (7/1, Key, 1.28M) says Trump "hinted at the possible overturning of Roe v. Wade" during his interview with Fox News, saying the legality of abortion "could very well end up with states at some point." Asked if abortion rights should be decided by the states, Trump said, "Well, maybe someday it will be to the states. You never know how that's going to turn out. That's a very complex question. The Roe v. Wade is probably the one that people are talking about in terms of having an effect. But we will see what happens. But it could very well end up with states at some point."

TIME (7/1, Langone, 19.27M) reports that in the interview with Fox News, "Trump acknowledged that the status of Roe v. Wade is one of the key issues in the public's mind," but Newsweek (7/1, Fearnow, 2.18M) says he "hesitantly added, however, that he's not going to be 'so specific with the questions' used to query" candidates. Yahoo! News (7/1, Walsh, 12.44M) reports Trump, however, told Fox News, "They're all saying, 'Don't do that. You don't do that. You shouldn't do that.' But I'm putting conservative people on and I'm very proud of Neil Gorsuch. He's been outstanding. His opinions are you know so well written, so brilliant. And I'm going to try and do something like that but I don't think I'm going to be so specific in the questions I'll be asking. And I'm actually told I shouldn't be."

NJ News (7/1, Salant, 1.17M), however, notes that Trump "has pledged to nominate justices who will overturn Roe v. Wade," and "said he would choose from a list of people vetted by the Federalist Society, a conservative legal group

that opposes abortion. So he already knows how anyone on the list will vote on abortion, meaning he doesn't have to ask their views on the issue."

The Washington Free Beacon (7/1, Kugle, 67K) notes that "all four names Leo mentioned are on Trump's list of potential Supreme Court justices," but when asked if they are the front runners, Leo said, "No, I don't think it's fair to say that, and here's why. The president is really in the driver's seat along with the assistance of White House counsel Don McGahn. Those are people who are under very serious consideration."

Sen. Richard Blumenthal said on CBS' Face the Nation (7/1, Brennan, 3.28M), "The President has said that he will appoint someone only if he or she would 'automatically overturn Roe v. Wade.'" He added, "This decision will shape the Court for years to come and it could lead to criminalizing reproductive rights, as they were prior to Roe v. Wade when women were prosecuted and women died."

The AP (6/30, Harrisburg (PA), Patriot-News), meanwhile, reports that "some evangelical leaders are downplaying their fortune on an issue that has defined their movement for decades." Jerry Falwell Jr. told the AP, "What people don't understand is that if you overturn Roe v. Wade, all that does is give the states the right to decide whether abortion is legal or illegal. My guess is that there'd probably be less than 20 states that would make abortion illegal if given that right."

Sources: White House Officials Eyeing Exits Likely To Stay Through Confirmation. ABC News (7/1, Palmeri, 1.85M) reports on its website that "top White House officials worn out from the chaos of the Trump administration and eyeing the exits in the coming weeks are now considering staying on through the confirmation of a Supreme Court justice, three White House officials and two outside advisors" say. White House Counsel Don McGahn, Legislative Affairs Director Marc Short and Domestic Policy Director Andrew Bremberg "have told colleagues in the days following Supreme Court Justice Kennedy's retirement announcement that they plan to stay on staff through the confirmation process."

Cantwell: Wrong Vote On Nominee Could Be "Career-Ending Move." The Washington Times (7/1, Richardson, 460K) reports Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA) "warned her colleagues Sunday that a wrong decision" on President Trump's nominee could become a "career-ending move." Cantwell told NBC's Meet the Press, "I think that

my colleagues on both sides of the aisle know that this vote could be one of the key votes of their entire career. And they know that no matter what spin comes out of the White House, if they vote for somebody who's going to change precedent, it could be a career-ending move." The Hill (7/1, Birnbaum, 2.71M) also reports Cantwell's comments.

A Washington Times (7/1, McLaughlin, 460K) analysis, meanwhile, says "red-state Democrats seeking re-election this fall were already facing the difficult task of navigating between their own virulently anti-Trump national party and the Republican-leaning voters needed to win back home. But that narrow path has become even more of a tightrope now that incumbents will be asked to take sides" on the President's nomination. The Times says if Republicans "hold firm, the Senate is likely to vote on a Supreme Court nominee just as the midterm campaign season hits full stride." But it "also means vulnerable Democrats in states such as West Virginia and North Dakota will have to choose between a president who easily won their states in 2016 and a frenzied liberal base intent on blocking anyone he chooses."

Seung Min Kim of the Washington Post said on CNN Inside Politics (7/1, 733K), "For Senate Democrats, this is their one chance to really get their base to care about the Court. What we've seen last several years, perhaps the last decade is that conservatives are better at the court issue than Democrats in terms of just getting the base involved, getting their base excited," but "now with potentially the future of *Roe v. Wade* on the line, Democrats, this is their chance to really get their voters excited and that's why you're seeing the Democratic messaging on the Supreme Court already focusing on not only abortion, but future of the Affordable Care Act."

Michael Shear of the New York Times said on CNN Inside Politics (7/1, 733K), "I think one of the things you're going to see is that the Democrats are going to try to make the case that to their base" that abortion and the Affordable Care Act are "something that you have to be united on...because what the Democrats need is to hold their entire – all 49 and then they only have to peel off one Republican."

Toomey: Special Counsel Investigation Should Not Prevent Trump Nomination. Sen. Pat Toomey (R-PA), asked on CBS' Face the Nation (7/1, Brennan, 3.28M) about the question

of the Special Counsel investigation and the probability of the justice Trump appoints ruling in the case, said, "I think that is a ridiculous argument that is made as just an attempt to make way for the real position, which is that President Trump should never be able to confirm a vacancy." He added, "I don't remember hearing the Democrats making that argument when President Bill Clinton was in fact personally under investigation when a vacancy occurred. My understanding is that President Trump is not himself personally the subject of the investigation even. I think that is a non-argument."

Trump Retweets Elder Joke About Reporter Fired Over False MAGA Hat Claim.

The New York Post (7/1, Perez, 4.46M) reports that President Trump on Sunday retweeted "a tweet by conservative radio host Larry Elder...which poked fun at a newspaper reporter who lost his job after he falsely claimed that the Capital Gazette shooter wore a 'Make America Great Again' hat during the massacre." Elder sent the tweet, which read, "BEWARE! #TrumpDerangementSyndrome can be career ending," in response "to an article published by The Hill, which covered the resignation of Conor Berry, a former reporter at The Republican in Springfield, Mass."

Hemingway: Press Sought To Tie Trump To Maryland Newspaper Shooting.

Mollie Hemingway of The Federalist said on Fox News MediaBuzz (7/1, 1.61M), "It's very difficult when something like this happens. You are desperate for information and speculation runs rampant. I think it's important for journalists to make sure they are not speculating without evidence. It wasn't just bad that people started trying to tie President Trump to the shooting. It was that after the news came out showing that the shooter had a longstanding grudge against the publication dating back to 2011, many journalists kept saying that they thought this was somehow the responsibility of President Trump."

Waters: People Want Democrats To Be "More Confrontational" Against Trump.

Breitbart (7/1, Key, 1.28M) reports that Rep. Maxine Waters told MSNBC AM Joy Sunday that weekend protests over the President's immigration policies show that "the people" want Democrats to be "more forceful" and "more confrontational" in their opposition. Waters said,

"Well, let me just tell you this, first of all, the people of this country, no matter Republican or Democrat, do not like the idea that children have been separated. Republicans are making a mistake thinking they can hold on to that constituency, that so-called belongs to Donald Trump. On this issue, Republicans and Democrats, Independents alike are opposed to what is going on. And yes, people do want to see us being stronger and more forceful and to confront them on these policies."

Fox News (7/1, Chamberlain, 16.38M) reports on its website that Waters said she was "surprised" by criticism from Democratic leaders over her call for people to "push back" against members of the Administration. Waters said, "One of the things I recognize, being an elected official, is in the final analysis, leadership ... will do anything that they think is necessary to protect their leadership and so what I have to do is not focus on them." Waters added, "I was blessed with courage. And I was blessed with the kind of strength that does not allow me to be intimidated by the likes of Donald Trump. ... Let him call me whatever he wants to call me. Let him say whatever he wants to say. He will not stop me." The Hill (7/1, Wise, 2.71M) also reports on Waters' comments.

Todd: Trump Is "Winning," Democrats Are "Reeling." Breitbart (7/1, Key, 1.28M) reports that Chuck Todd, host of NBC's Meet the Press, said Sunday that President Trump is "winning" and Democrats are "reeling." Todd said, "The announced retirement of Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy this week helped make one political reality clear: Despite his overall unpopularity, President Trump is winning, and the Democrats right now are reeling. ... How about the Republican Party? The president's approval rating among Republicans is around 90 percent. Elected Republicans fear criticizing him, and the party has become a cult of personality: his." Todd continued, "Still, much of Mr. Trump's success is superficial. While he's more popular among Republicans, the party overall is shrinking. His trade war, North Korea, or the Mueller investigation all could turn against him and, frankly, turn against him now like North Korea has. But if the Democrats' reaction to the Kennedy retirement proved anything, it's that the Democratic Party has not figured out how to succeed in the Trump era."

Ocasio-Cortez: Democratic Socialism Just "Part Of What I Am."

The Washington Times (7/1, Richardson, 460K) reports that in an interview with NBC's Meet the Press Sunday, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who defeated Rep. Joe Crowley in last week's primary in NY14, "downplayed...her affiliation with democratic socialism," saying, "It's part of what I am. It's not all of what I am. And I think that that's a very important distinction. ... I'm an educator, I'm an organizer. ... And I believe that what we're really seeing is just a movement for health care housing and education in the United States." Ocasio-Cortez added, "Democrats are a big tent party. ... I'm not trying to impose an ideology on all several hundred members of Congress, but I do think that once again it's not selling an -ism or an ideology or a label or a color. It's about selling our values."

The New York Post (7/1, Moore, 4.46M) reports that Ocasio-Cortez "faulted Crowley, a 10-term incumbent, for not being more closely connected to the community," saying, "I do think there was certainly a lack of presence, and that was a big part of my win. ... There was a lack of listening on the ground. A lack of going to the grocery store and saying 'Hey, how you doing?' That is an important work of representation." Ocasio-Cortez also "said the Democrats must have a unified message that people can rally around, especially in the fight over President Trump's nominee to the Supreme Court." She said, "This Supreme Court seat is extremely serious. There is a federal investigation going on with direct implications to the presidency and that presidency is talking about nominating a Supreme Court pick that is going to essentially hear this case out."

Duckworth: Democrats Can't Go Too Far Left An Win Nationwide.

The Washington Examiner (7/1, Ayers, 340K) reports that Sen. Tammy Duckworth warned Sunday that the Democratic Party should not move further to the left if they want to win the presidency. Following the surprising defeat of Crowley by Ocasio-Cortez, an "avowed Democratic socialist," Duckworth told CNN's State of the Union Sunday that "she doesn't foresee that being a winning strategy in the Midwest." Said Duckworth, "I think that you can't win the White House without the Midwest. ... And I don't think you can go too far to the left and still win the Midwest — coming from a

Midwestern state.” Duckworth urged dialogue with the “industrial Midwest,” and said, “You need to listen to the people there in order to win an election nationwide.”

The Washington Post (7/1, Scherer, 15.68M) says Democratic leaders are “scrambling to keep the political outrage they’d counted on to fuel midterm election wins from becoming a liability for the party.” Internal debates “have broken into public view over maintaining civility and the usefulness of liberal slogans like ‘abolish ICE,’ which some Republicans have embraced to argue falsely that Democrats oppose immigration enforcement.” Meanwhile, “liberal activists have begun to argue for more radical measures to counter the president, who they assert presents an immediate threat to the republic.”

Rachel Bade of Politico said on CNN Inside Politics (7/1, 733K) that Ocasio-Cortez’s primary win over Crowley “was a clear message to the top of Democratic leadership in the House that Democrats want change in their hierarchy and they want the establishment out, they want new blood at the top and they are ready to see somebody else lead beyond Pelosi.”

John King said on CNN Inside Politics (7/1, 733K), “If there’s a giant blue wave and Democrats win the House by 20 seats, Nancy Pelosi will be okay. She still is the party’s premier fundraiser. She still has a lot of loyalty in the caucus. However, if they just squeak by and a whole bunch of candidates promised in their TV ads I won’t vote for her, she’s going to have to negotiate either a temporary speakership...or she may have to go.”

Portland Police Declare Riot, Revoke Permit As Antifa Disrupts Protest.

Breitbart (7/1, Huston, 1.28M) reports that Portland, Oregon police “revoked a permit for a pro-America march and declared the scene a riot when counter-protesters erupted in violence on Saturday.” The permit had been “secured by the Patriot Prayer group that had planned a march entitled the ‘Freedom and Courage’ rally. But a large number of members of a local violent, black-clad Antifa group also gathered along the march route and began a series of confrontations with the marchers.” According to The Oregonian, the Antifa group “initiated hostilities by throwing eggs, bottles, and other items at the Patriot group, the paper noted.”

ABC World News Tonight (7/1, story 9, 0:20, Llamas, 14.63M) reported that according to police, at least four people were hurt “when right-wing demonstrators and counter-protesters broke out in brawls,” and “at least nine people [are] facing charges.” The CBS Weekend News (7/1, story 9, 0:20, Quijano, 5.32M) reported that officials “say they seized knives, clubs, and chemical sprays.”

NYTimes Analysis: Supreme Court Ruling Against Unions A Blow To Liberal Groups.

The New York Times (7/1, Scheiber, 19.33M) reports that the Supreme Court’s ruling “striking down mandatory union fees for government workers” will “hit hard at a vast network of groups dedicated to advancing liberal policies and candidates.” Groups that “work for immigrants and civil rights,” or “produce economic research” or “turn out voters or run ads in Democratic campaigns,” have “benefited from tens of millions of dollars a year from public-sector unions — funding now in jeopardy because of the prospective decline in union revenue.” According to liberal activists, cutting off that funding “was a crucial goal of the conservative groups that helped bring the case, known as Janus v. American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees,” and conservatives “have acknowledged as much. ... Even President Trump took notice of the justices’ ruling, declaring on Twitter that it was a ‘big loss for the coffers of the Democrats!’”

Trump Says He Wants To Stay “Uninvolved” In Russia Probe, “At Least For Now.”

President Trump was asked in an interview that aired on Fox News Sunday Morning Futures (7/1, Bartiromo, 1.79M) about Russia investigation. Trump said, “So, I have this country running like a top, Mike Pompeo is doing great.” He said, “We have a great group of people” and “the one thing I want to stay uninvolved in at least for now I may get involved but I have been told by so many people don’t get involved.” He said, “There’s no collusion with me ...honestly it is a disgrace but I purposely said I’m not getting involved” and “you know, they found nothing.” He said, “By the way, this is the most transparent thing ever done with the White House... I think I gave them a million 400,000 documents I told them don’t even read them; there’s no Russia mentioned or anything like that.”

Judge Rules Rosenstein's Order Gives Mueller Wide Investigative Latitude. The Washington Times (7/1, Scarborough, 460K) reports that understanding the reason special counsel Robert Mueller has expanded his investigation beyond the 2016 presidential race "may require perusing a federal judge's opinion on June 26 in the Paul Manafort case." District Court Judge T.S. Ellis III "dissected Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein's May 2017 appointment order to Mr. Mueller," and "concluded that the prosecutor is empowered to look at virtually any Russian contact." According to Ellis, Rosenstein's guidelines "state that Mr. Mueller is to investigate any links between the Russian government and Trump campaign associates," which means "indirect links" or "potential links," giving Mueller "wide latitude when deciding whether to target a Trump person."

Judge Extends Program Paying For Hurricane Maria Victims' Hotel Stays. The CBS Weekend News (7/1, story 11, 0:30, Quijano, 5.32M) reported that Hurricane Maria evacuees living in hotels have gotten a "short reprieve" as a federal judge "temporarily extended the program that's been paying for their stay." The program was "set to expire at midnight Sunday, but will now end on Tuesday."

Private Equity Group Offer High-Interest Loans To Cash-Strapped Americans. The Washington Post (7/1, Whoriskey, 15.68M) reports that the company Mariner Finance "enables some of the nation's wealthiest investors and investment funds to make money offering high-interest loans to cash-strapped Americans." The company "is owned and managed by a \$11.2 billion private equity fund controlled by Warburg Pincus, a storied New York firm," whose president is Timothy F. Geithner, "who, as treasury secretary in the Obama administration, condemned predatory lenders." The Post says the market for "'consumer installment loans,' which Mariner and its competitors serve, has grown rapidly in recent years, particularly as new federal regulations have curtailed payday lending, according to the Center for Financial Services Innovation, a nonprofit research group. Private equity firms, with billions to invest, have taken significant stakes in the growing field." Mariner "stands out for the frequent use of mass-mailed checks, which allows

customers to accept a high-interest loan on an impulse — just sign the check."

Median Prime For A Single-Family Home In San Francisco Bay Area Is \$935,000. The CBS Weekend News (7/1, story 8, 2:10, Quijano, 5.32M) reported that "a recent report says the median price for a single-family home in the [San Francisco] Bay area is \$935,000. In the city it's even higher." CBS (Strassmann) added that market "is fueled by thousands of well-paid tech workers who have driven up the median price of a San Francisco home to \$1.6 million, the highest in the country. And while housing prices are rising faster than incomes nationwide, nowhere is it more evident than in the Bay area, where home values have soared a staggering 64% over the last five years."

High Schools Clamp Down On Student Journalists Covering Sensitive Subjects. The New York Times (7/1, Peiser, 19.33M) reports that high schools across the nation have been pushing back against student journalists "who have reported on sensitive subjects, like the reaction to school shootings and adolescent sexuality." Since a 1988 Supreme Court ruling "that a Missouri school district had acted lawfully in removing a two-page spread on divorce and teenage pregnancy from a student newspaper, administrators have been able to censor work in school publications that they consider poorly written or 'inconsistent with the shared values of a civilized social order.'" The Times cites a number of examples but also notes that in some places, "student reporters have delved into difficult subjects without interference or complaint from administrators."

Seattle Bans Plastic Straws, Utensils In Restaurants. NBC Nightly News (7/1, story 8, 2:30, Jackson, 8.26M) reported that Seattle on Sunday joined "the growing list of cities banning plastic straws and plastic forks and knives in local restaurants. They're almost never recycled, meaning they end up in landfills, creating more of a pollution problem." NBC (Fryer) added that "28 cities around the country that have banned or limited plastic straws or are considering it. California and Hawaii are even exploring statewide policies."

Murdoch Turning Much Of The Company He Built Over To Disney.

The Washington Post (7/1, Ellison, 15.68M) reports that 21st Century Fox and News Corp. founder and co-executive chairman Rupert Murdoch is “selling the bulk of the company to Disney.” It is “a seminal moment for Murdoch, who is turning over the power to run the company he has spent his career building.” The Post adds that with President Trump’s election, Murdoch is “at the height of his political influence in the United States, a position he has long sought. Murdoch has a direct line to Trump and close relationships with several Fox News personalities who act as unofficial advisers to the White House.” Murdoch and the President “talk weekly and sometimes daily, according to people close to both men.” Moreover, with “former Fox News executive and Sean Hannity confidant Bill Shine...expected to take the job of White House deputy chief of staff in charge of communications,” it “only adds to the personal connections between Trump and the Murdoch-controlled news network.”

In an editorial, the New York Times (7/1, 19.33M) questions the speed with which the Justice Department approved the Disney-Fox deal, saying it took “about half the time that regulators usually need to evaluate deals of this size.” Noting that the Department “spent nearly two years investigating AT&T’s acquisition of Time Warner and bringing an ultimately unsuccessful lawsuit against the deal,” the Times says that while the Administration “has denied that politics plays a role in its antitrust enforcement decisions,” it is “hard not to be skeptical of the possible motivations behind the Justice Department’s approach to these deals.”

Professors Oppose Stricter Work Requirements For SNAP.

In an op-ed for the New York Times (7/1, 19.33M), Sarah Bowen, Sinikka Elliott And Annie Hardison-Moody, professors who have conducted a study on child hunger, write that the nation’s policies “have long reflected, imperfectly, the moral imperative that children deserve adequate food. Until now.” Although SNAP already includes work requirements for able-bodied adults without children, the House-passed farm bill “an even harsher policy and extends it to parents of school-age children. It would require that most adults provide monthly proof that they are working or enrolled in at least 20 hours of work force training

per week in order to receive support” or risk being locked out of the program for three years. They note that the Senate version does not include the requirement “that will leave more kids hungry,” and argue that while President Trump “offered his support,” for stricter work requirements, the program “should not be restricted” but “expanded, so that fewer families — and especially kids — are hungry.”

WPost Welcomes Transfer Of Background Checks From OPM To DOD.

In an editorial, the Washington Post (7/1, 15.68M) says the Administration’s proposal to transfer responsibility for background investigations for security clearances from the OPM to the Defense Department is change that is “a long time coming.” The Post cites criticism of OPM’s “slow processing of background checks” as well as “security concerns” stemming from the agency’s handling of the investigations and says the “transfer of security-clearance responsibilities makes sense.” However, the Post says Defense Department must “address these concerns and ensure that the background-check process is efficient, secure and accurate going forward.”

WSJournal Criticizes Individual, Corporate Tax Hikes In New Jersey.

A Wall Street Journal (7/1, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) editorial criticizes New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy and State Senate leader Steve Sweeney for agreeing to increase New Jersey’s state’s income tax on residents making more than \$5 million and the corporate rate on companies with more than \$1 million in income, giving the state the fourth highest income tax rate on individuals and the second highest corporate rate in the nation.

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP

New York Times. “*Your Credit Card Will Pay For The Next Recession.*” The New York Times (7/1, 19.33M) says in an editorial that Federal Reserve forecasters’ “median prediction is that the federal funds rate is headed to 3.4 percent by the end of 2020 from the current 1.9 percent,” meaning consumers will be “paying more to get a mortgage, a new-car loan or to carry a balance on your credit card. How much more? Possibly enough to absorb whatever extra income you might be enjoying from lower tax rates or

higher wages.” The Fed’s job of keeping “inflation in check by raising rates,” has been “made more urgent by the Republicans’ \$1.5 trillion tax giveaway to the wealthy and corporations.” Now, “Trump supporters who benefited the least from the Republican tax cut...will now have to pay the bulk of the bill to mitigate the damage it caused to the economy.”

“The Disney-Fox Deal Sails Through, A Bit Too Easily.” In an editorial, the New York Times (7/1, 19.33M) questions the speed with which the Justice Department approved the Disney-Fox deal, saying it took “about half the time that regulators usually need to evaluate deals of this size.” Noting that the Department “spent nearly two years investigating AT&T’s acquisition of Time Warner and bringing an ultimately unsuccessful lawsuit against the deal,” the Times says that while the Administration “has denied that politics plays a role in its antitrust enforcement decisions,” it is “hard not to be skeptical of the possible motivations behind the Justice Department’s approach to these deals.”

Washington Post. “This Piece Of Trump’s Federal Shake-Up Has Been A Long Time Coming. Get It Right.” In an editorial, the Washington Post (7/1, 15.68M) says the Administration’s proposal to transfer responsibility for background investigations for security clearances from the OPM to the Defense Department is change that is “a long time coming.” The Post cites criticism of OPM’s “slow processing of background checks” as well as “security concerns” stemming from the agency’s handling of the investigations and says the “transfer of security-clearance responsibilities makes sense.” However, the Post says Defense Department must “address these concerns and ensure that the background-check process is efficient, secure and accurate going forward.”

“The Malaria Fight Stalls As Children Die By The Hundreds Of Thousands.” A Washington Post (7/1, 15.68M) editorial says that while the number of malaria cases and deaths have declined steadily for a decade and a half as “global public-health officials have been at war” with the disease, the “battle shows signs of stalling.” In 2016, “the number of malaria cases went up to 215 million, from 210 million the year before.” The Post says that the fight against malaria will be won “by action on many fronts. A stall, after so much promise, would be terrible and costly.”

“What Are The Park Police Hiding?” A Washington Post (7/1, 15.68M) criticizes the “epic stonewalling campaign” by US Park Police concerning Park Police officers’ fatal shooting of Bijan Ghaisar, “a young accountant in Northern Virginia who appeared to pose no threat to them or anyone else.” The Post says “it has been 225 days – and counting” and the Park Police response “has been characterized by brazen arrogance and in-your-face unaccountability on a grand scale.” The Post concludes that “after so many months of official nonresponsiveness, there is one overarching question the public is entitled to ask: What are the police trying to hide?”

Wall Street Journal. “The War On Admissions Testing.” In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (7/1, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) takes issue with a growing movement to eliminate the ACT and SAT tests for college admissions. The Journal argues that although no test is ideal, the ACT and SAT are good predictors of how a student will perform in college.

“New Jersey’s Tax Gift To Florida.” A Wall Street Journal (7/1, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) editorial criticizes New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy and State Senate leader Steve Sweeney for agreeing to increase New Jersey’s state’s income tax on residents making more than \$5 million and the corporate rate on companies with more than \$1 million in income, giving the state the fourth highest income tax rate on individuals and the second highest corporate rate in the nation.

“North Korea Keeps Enriching Uranium.” A Wall Street Journal (7/1, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) editorial says evidence of North Korea’s continuing nuclear-fuel production suggests Pyongyang intends to drag out open-ended talks with the US for as long as possible in hopes of extracting new concessions along the way. The Journal says if President Trump does not call Kim Jong-un out on these activities, then Kim will conclude that he can get away with this behavior.

THE BIG PICTURE

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

WALL STREET JOURNAL:

Trump Cites Threat Of Auto Tariffs As His Biggest Leverage

[Facebook Gave Firms Special Access To Users' Personal Data](#)
[North Korea Expands Key Missile-Manufacturing Plant](#)
[Taiwan's Technology Secrets Come Under Assault From China](#)

NEW YORK TIMES:

[Supreme Court Defeat For Unions Upends A Liberal Money Base](#)
[Bulwark Against An Abortion Ban? Medical Advances](#)
[In Denmark, Harsh New Laws For Immigrant 'Ghettos'](#)
[Leftist Wins Mexico Presidency In Landslide With Mandate To Reshape Nation](#)
[As Bolton Says North Korea Could Disarm In A Year, Reality Lags Promises](#)
[Behind Lincoln Center's White Travertine Facade: Infighting And Indecision](#)

WASHINGTON POST:

[Unsolicited Checks Can Be A Lifeline — And An Albatross](#)
[Trump Stays Firm On Trade As Foreign Tariffs Kick In](#)
[Democrats' Bad Week Highlights A Big Rift](#)
[Two Bristols, Two Fiscal Realities](#)
[Mexico Turns Left In Election](#)
[Emails Reveal Ties Between Top EPA Aides And Lobbyists](#)

FINANCIAL TIMES:

[Amlo Seals Comfortable Victory In Mexico Election](#)
[EU Warns Of \\$300BN Hit To US Over Car Import Tariffs](#)
[Alphabet Adds To Transport Bets With Scooter Deal](#)
[Activist Loeb Demands More Urgency At 'Complacent' Nestlé](#)

WASHINGTON TIMES:

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[Political Pickle: Supreme Court Vacancy Puts Red-State Democrats In A Big Campaign Quandary](#)
[Trump's 'Down The Road' Deadline To Lift North Korea Sanctions Frustrates Nations Eager For Trade](#)
[Trump's Pressure Against Regime Adds Strength To Iran's Largest Dissident Group](#)

[Judge: Rosenstein's 'Any Links' Mandate Empowers Mueller To Look At Virtually Any Russian Contact](#)
[After Trump Yields On Family Separation, Immigration Activists Demand End To Detentions, ICE](#)

STORY LINEUP FROM LAST NIGHT'S NETWORK NEWS:

ABC: Severe Weather; Bahamas-Boat Explosion; Idaho-Man Goes On Stabbing Spree; Trump-SCOTUS Pick; France-Murderer Escapes Prison; Mexico-Elections; India-Bus Accident; Oregon-Police Shooting; Australia-Shark Bites Woman; Portland-Protest Becomes Riot; China-Road Collapses; Reagan National Airport-United Express Flight Forced To Deplane; Food Recall-Wishbone Italian Dressing; Best Buy Stops Selling CDs; Police Lip Sync.

CBS: Severe Weather; Wildfires; Bahamas-Boat Explosion; Trump-SCOTUS Pick; Reagan National Airport-United Express Flight Forced To Deplane; Maryland-Capital Gazette Memorial; US-Russia Relations; Mexico-Elections; San Francisco-Housing Market; Portland-Protest Becomes Riot; Thailand-Missing Boys' Soccer Team; Puerto Rico-Hurricane Maria Evacuees; Long Island-Father Son Sock Business.

NBC: Idaho-Man Goes On Stabbing Spree; Severe Weather; Weather Report; Wildfires; Bahamas-Boat Explosion; Trump-SCOTUS Pick; Mexico-Elections; Plastic Straw Bans; Opioid Crisis-France's Solution; France-Murderer Escapes Prison; Family's Monster Truck Business.

NETWORK TV AT A GLANCE:

Severe Weather – 7 minutes, 35 seconds
Trump-SCOTUS Pick – 7 minutes, 30 seconds
Bahamas-Boat Explosion – 4 minutes, 50 seconds
Mexico-Elections – 3 minutes, 0 seconds

STORY LINEUP FROM THIS MORNING'S RADIO NEWS BROADCASTS:

ABC: Trump-SCOTUS Pick; Idaho-Man Goes On Stabbing Spree; NBA News.

CBS: Idaho-Man Goes On Stabbing Spree; Severe Weather; Wildfires; Mexico-Elections; NBA News.

FOX: NBA News; Congress-SCOTUS Pick; Mexico-Elections.

NPR: Trump-SCOTUS Pick; Idaho-Man Goes On

LAST LAUGHS

Late Night Political Humor.

John Oliver: Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy's retirement "is obviously huge news, and for anyone who believes that the Constitution protects things like reproductive and LGBT rights, this is bad. And we know it's bad because Donald Trump Jr. was happy, tweeting 'OMG just when you thought this week couldn't get more lit, I give you Anthony Kennedy's retirement from #scotus.' And I'm afraid I'm going to have to disagree with Mr. Junior on this, because I personally don't think this was lit at all. I mean, it's obvs cray af. No one is denying that, fam. But I would argue that this news was neither lit nor on fleek. Nor was it three fire emojis. Now, granted, I am still a little shook, jsyk, but I personally believe Kennedy's retirement is super werpt. And I'm happy to announce that, in saying that, all the slang words I just used are now officially dead forever. And that includes 'werpt,' a term that doesn't even exist, but which I have preemptively ruined just in case."

John Oliver: "The big question here is, who is going to replace Kennedy? And the Administration has made their plans pretty clear, with Mike Pence tweeting, 'Thank you to justice Anthony Kennedy for your long career of service. Trump will nominate a strong conservative in the tradition of the late Justice Scalia.' Which is a little weird. You don't generally stand up at someone's retirement party and say, 'Thank you for everything you did for this company, Robert, and rest assured that we will replace you with someone exactly like that other guy who used to work here that we always liked much more than you.'"

John Oliver: "There's a fundamental problem there, and that is that Republicans have 51 seats in the Senate, and they need 51 votes to confirm the new justice. So unless Democrats can convince their entire party to oppose the nomination and persuade a number of Republicans over to their side, they are...out of luck, meaning it's time for Democrats' favorite game: 'Hope Susan Collin Flips And Be Disappointed When She Doesn't!' It's America's most depressing game show."

John Oliver: "I'm happy to say, there is some good news. It turns out there's a constitutional loophole that allows Democrats to – I'm obviously lying here. There's no good news. Everything is terrible now."

John Oliver: "Barring some massive screw-up from Trump, the only thing anyone can really do is vote. And there are actually two key elections you should really try and vote in: One in 2016 and one in 2014. Because that is what got us into this mess."

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To:	"White, Jonathan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e9b5fe526f1d4ba0a6cc8ddee8ec4d87-Jonathan Wh>"
CC:	"Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4caeb9900d27435daf018df146c4f075-Bowman, Mat>"; "Wagner, Steven (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3cec05da51ab4c7c978051f08d947637-Wagner, Jam>"
Subject:	RE: TOP request
Date:	2017/11/30 14:20:59
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Jonathan,

Please make sure the program proceeds with confirming the pregnancy with OB/GYN according to SOP. Also, the program should confirm that the termination is not medically indicated.

At the same time, the program should request permission of the UAC to contact parents and notify them of the pregnancy and the request for termination. The UAC can raise

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, November 29, 2017 7:16 PM
To: Lloyd, Scott (ACF)
Subject: Fwd: TOP request

See below.

Jonathan White
Commander, US Public Health Service
Deputy Director for Children's Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
Jonathan.White@acf.hhs.gov
(202) 570-8916

From: "Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)" <Michael.Bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: TOP request

Date: 29 November 2017 19:08

To: "White, Jonathan (ACF)" <Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov>

Cc: "Misegades, Lara (ACF)" <Lara.Misegades@acf.hhs.gov>, "Somerville, Nicholas J (ACF)" <Nicholas.Somerville@acf.hhs.gov>

Hi Jonathan,

(b)(5)



Michael

Michael L. Bartholomew, M.D., FAAP

CDR, U.S. Public Health Service

Director, Division of Health for Unaccompanied Children (DHUC)

Unaccompanied Children Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Mary E. Switzer Building

330 C St SW, MS 5123

Washington, DC 20201

Phone: 202-401-5375

michael.bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov

www.acf.hhs.gov

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Wednesday, November 29, 2017 6:30 PM

To: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Subject: TOP request

Importance: High

Michael,

Just finished speaking with Scott about the most recent TOP request.

(b)(5)

Jonathan

Jonathan White
Commander, US Public Health Service
Deputy Director for Children's Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
Jonathan.White@acf.hhs.gov
(202) 570-8916

Recipient:	"White, Jonathan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e9b5fe526f1d4ba0a6cc8dde8ec4d87-Jonathan Wh>"; "Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4caeb9900d27435daf018df146c4f075-Bowman, Mat>"; "Wagner, Steven (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3cec05da51ab4c7c978051f08d947637-Wagner, Jam>"
Sent Date:	2017/11/30 14:18:21
Delivered Date:	2017/11/30 14:20:59
Message Flags:	Unsent

To:	"Marriott, Brian (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4ae7a85e29e243969fd8c7803b2af592-Marriott, B>"; "Wolfe, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1f392f88a57d44df8c85dd4a2c547ddb-Wolfe, Kenn>"; "Yuest, Charmaine (OS/ASPA) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=85e8821966a9482a825d7d4108319469-Yuest, Char>"; "Wagner, Steven (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3cec05da51ab4c7c978051f08d947637-Wagner, Jam>"
CC:	"Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4caeb9900d27435daf018df146c4f075-Bowman, Mat>"; "Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=aab414d065764e13baf66a6f66b299ab-Wynne, Marg>"; "Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=95d370f47f12407d89c49b9194ac9b-Stevenson,>"
Subject:	Note to file
Date:	2017/12/19 19:28:23
Priority:	Urgent
Type:	Note

(b)(5)

Thank you,
Scott

E. Scott Lloyd

Director

Office of Refugee Resettlement

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

(202) 401-7269

(202) (b)(6) (cell)

scott.lloyd@acf.hhs.gov

Recipient:	"Marriott, Brian (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4ae7a85e29e243969fd8c7803b2af592-Marriott, B>"; "Wolfe, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1f392f88a57d44df8c85dd4a2c547ddb-Wolfe, Kenn>"; "Yuest, Charmaine (OS/ASPA) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=85e8821966a9482a825d7d4108319469-Yuest, Char>"; "Wagner, Steven (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3cec05da51ab4c7c978051f08d947637-Wagner, Jam>"; "Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4caeb9900d27435daf018df146c4f075-Bowman, Mat>"; "Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=aab414d065764e13baf66a6f66b299ab-Wynne, Marg>"; "Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=95d370f47f12407d89c49b9194acec9b-Stevenson,>"
Sent Date:	2018/01/02 20:23:30
Delivered Date:	2017/12/19 19:28:23
Message Flags:	Unsent



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Office of Refugee Resettlement | 330 C Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20201
www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr

NOTE TO FILE

December 16, 2017

Scott Lloyd, Director

(b)(5)

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Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

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of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 517 of 738

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

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To:	"White, Jonathan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e9b5fe526f1d4ba0a6cc8ddee8ec4d87-Jonathan Wh>"
CC:	"Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4caeb9900d27435daf018df146c4f075-Bowman, Mat>"; "Wagner, Steven (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3cec05da51ab4c7c978051f08d947637-Wagner, Jam>"; "Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=aab414d065764e13baf66a6f66b299ab-Wynne, Marg>"
Subject:	RE: UAC with TOP request: Instructions from leadership
Date:	2017/12/01 18:16:12
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Jonathan,

Am I correct that there is an appointment scheduled for Monday? What is the purpose of the appointment?

The threats of self-harm are troubling. Please remind me the SOP when these occur and

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Friday, December 01, 2017 12:13 PM
To: Lloyd, Scott (ACF)
Subject: FW: UAC with TOP request: Instructions from leadership
Importance: High

Updated information just received:

Note: Minor disclosed to treating MD that **she believes pregnancy is a result of rape**. SIR on that disclosure expected shortly.

Minor also stated that she would prefer to harm herself than continue with pregnancy, which may constitute a medical risk of denying her the requested procedure.

Please advise next steps.

From: Mansilla, Karla (ACF)
Sent: Friday, December 01, 2017 12:07 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Cc: De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Sualog, Jallyn (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Volovar, Jill (ACF)
Subject: Re: UAC with TOP request: Instructions from leadership

Good Morning,

There are a couple of updates on the case:

- 1 - As per the physician, any pregnancy at this age is risky; however, it is unknown how the pregnancy will affect the minor or if it's threatening her life or health.
- 2 - The minor disclosed to the MD that she believes that the pregnancy is a product of the rape. A SIR will be submitted within the next few minutes with the new information.

This is the response I received from the program:

"As part of the examination, the Child/Minor received an interview in the presence of an Interpreter, MD and Nursing Staff-(Mt Sinai Medical Center, NYC).

The Child/Minor claims that the pregnancy was a product of a rape by an unknown man. She was quite verbal during the interview session that she did not want to complete her pregnancy. She stated to the MD that she prefers to harm herself rather than continue with the pregnancy, with that in mind her mental health is at threat.

There are no contraindications for the termination. However, if the procedure is accepted/approved by ORR and the HQ, it should be performed soon."

Thank you,

Karla Mansilla, MA, MPA
Federal Field Specialist – NY
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration of Children and Families

Office of Refugee Resettlement
Division of Unaccompanied Children's Operations

(C): (b)(6)
Karla.Mansilla@acf.hhs.gov
<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/programs/ucs>

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Friday, December 1, 2017 11:16:34 AM
To: Mansilla, Karla (ACF)
Cc: De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Sualog, Jallyn (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Volovar, Jill (ACF)
Subject: RE: UAC with TOP request: Instructions from leadership

Karla,

Thank you.

I will follow up with the ORR Director for next steps direction.

(b)(5)

Hope this helps.

Jonathan

From: Mansilla, Karla (ACF)
Sent: Friday, December 01, 2017 9:55 AM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Cc: De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Sualog, Jallyn (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Volovar, Jill

(ACF)

Subject: RE: UAC with TOP request: Instructions from leadership

I just received information the OB/GYN examination revealed 20 weeks gestation (fetal size/weight etc), not 9 weeks as originally reported. A follow up examination is scheduled for this coming Monday, December 4th, 2017. The program still wants clarification about the question about the termination not medically indicated. Is it the pregnancy or the termination that does not pose a threat to her health, or both?

She does not have a sponsor at this time. The program is trying to obtain more information from her family in home country.

Please note that the minor's primary language is (b)(6) and the program needs to use an interpreter, which has caused some delay in obtaining some information. At the examination with the OB/GYN the minor, with the assistance of a translator, requested a termination again.

Thank you,

Karla Mansilla, MA, MPA

Federal Field Specialist – NY

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Administration of Children and Families

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Division of Unaccompanied Children's Operations

(C): (b)(6)

Karla.Mansilla@acf.hhs.gov

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/programs/ucs>

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2017 5:02 PM
To: Mansilla, Karla (ACF)
Cc: De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Sualog, Jallyn (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Volovar, Jill (ACF)
Subject: Re: UAC with TOP request: Instructions from leadership

The next question is for my own awareness: what's this minor's reunification picture look like? Is there a sponsor identified?

Jonathan White
Commander, US Public Health Service
Deputy Director for Children's Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
Jonathan.White@acf.hhs.gov
(202) 570-8916

On: 30 November 2017 16:15, "Mansilla, Karla (ACF)"
<Karla.Mansilla@acf.hhs.gov>wrote:

Thank you.

The pregnancy has been confirmed. She has nine weeks of gestation. Today she has her first appointment with the OB/GYN at Mt. Sinai hospital.

The minor decided to notify her mother in home country about the pregnancy. The mother discouraged the minor to have a termination, but the minor continues wanting to terminate.

Thank you,

Karla Mansilla, MA, MPA
Federal Field Specialist – NY
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration of Children and Families
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Division of Unaccompanied Children's Operations

(C): (b)(6)

Karla.Mansilla@acf.hhs.gov

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/programs/ucs>

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2017 2:47:40 PM

To: Mansilla, Karla (ACF)

Cc: De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Sualog, Jallyn (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Volovar, Jill (ACF)

Subject: UAC with TOP request: Instructions from leadership

Karla,

Please see below the instructions from the ORR Director for the UAC at Abbott House who has made a request for TOP:

Please make sure the program proceeds with confirming the pregnancy with OB/GYN according to SOP. Also, the program should confirm that the termination is not medically indicated.

At the same time, the program should request permission of the UAC to contact parents and notify them of the pregnancy and the request for termination. The UAC can make the notification herself or have the program do it according to the UAC's wishes.

If you have any questions or need any clarification, don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Jonathan

Jonathan D. White

Commander, U.S. Public Health Service

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 C Street SW
(202) 690-6984
jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

Recipient:	"White, Jonathan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e9b5fe526f1d4ba0a6cc8dde8ec4d87-Jonathan Wh>"; "Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4caeb9900d27435daf018df146c4f075-Bowman, Mat>"; "Wagner, Steven (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3cec05da51ab4c7c978051f08d947637-Wagner, Jam>"; "Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=aab414d065764e13baf66a6f66b299ab-Wynne, Marg>"
Sent Date:	2017/12/01 18:16:14
Delivered Date:	2017/12/01 18:16:12
Message Flags:	Unsent

From:	Bulletin Intelligence <HHS@BulletinIntelligence.com>
To:	"HHS@bulletinintelligence.com"
Subject:	HHS News Briefing for Wednesday, October 18, 2017
Date:	2017/10/18 07:32:33
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

HHS NEWS BRIEFING

This document and searchable archives are available at hhs.bulletinintelligence.com.

TO: THE SECRETARY AND SENIOR STAFF

DATE: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2017 7:30 AM EDT

TODAY'S TABLE OF CONTENTS

LEADING THE NEWS:

- + Senators Reach Bipartisan Agreement To Fund ACA Subsidy Payments.

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- + Trump May Be Considering Alex Azar To Replace Price As HHS Secretary, Sources Say.
- + Trump Says He Will Nominate A New HHS Secretary Soon.
- + Democratic Lawmakers Want Trump Administration To Justify Decision To End ACA Subsidy Payments.

HHS IN THE NEWS:

- + Trump Administration Reportedly Preventing Undocumented Minors Who Were Raped From Obtaining Abortions.
- + HHS To Hold National Conference On Small Business Grants In Milwaukee.

- + Benefits Of Implementing Value-Based Care In Question.
- + Opinion: HHS Should Use Emergency Prescription Assistance Program To Help Those Affected By Recent Hurricanes.
- + Indian Health Service Defends Contract Awarded To Former NextCare CEO.
- + Health Experts Call For Changes To Food Environment As CDC Research Shows Rising Obesity Rates.
- + Brennan: NLM Is A "Safe Harbor" For Information.
- + Opinion: US Should Fund More Research On How To Care For People With Alzheimer's Disease.
- + More Researchers Keeping Primates In Shared Cages Rather Than Alone.

HEALTH REFORM:

- + Trump Calls On Congress To Fix "ObamaCare Mess" At Heritage Foundation Event.
- + President Trump May Have To Lobby For Bipartisan Healthcare Deal.
- + Trump Says Senate GOP Will Resume Work On ACA Repeal Bill After Tax Reform.
- + Trump Blames Dems For Premium Hikes For ACA Plans.
- + Sens. Bennet, Kaine Unveil Proposal To Add Public Option To ACA.
- + Some States, Insurers Scrambling To Raise Rates Following Trump's Decision To End ACA Subsidy Payments.
- + Senate GOP's Slim Majority Threatened By The Age And Illnesses Of Certain Lawmakers.
- + Sens. Toomey, Cotton Unveil New Bill To Exempt Certain People From ACA's Individual Mandate.
- + Insurers May Lose About \$1 Billion During The Remainder Of 2017 If ACA Subsidy Payments End, Analysis Indicates.
- + Federal Funding For Indiana's ACA Navigators Cut By 82%.
- + Pittsburgh, Erie Roman Catholic Dioceses Settle Lawsuits Over ACA's Contraception Mandate.
- + Democratic Candidates In Minnesota's Gubernatorial Race Unanimously Support Single-Payer Healthcare System.
- + North Dakota Insurance Commissioner Says He Will Not Allow More Rate Hikes For ACA Plans.
- + Centene Raises Premiums In Arkansas By 21.4 Percent.
- + Celtic Insurance/MHS To Raise Average ACA Plan Premiums In Indiana By 35.7 Percent.

- + New Jersey Regulators Approve Premium Increases For Individual ACA Plans.
- + Massachusetts State Senators Propose Wide-Ranging Healthcare Reform Bill.
- + Vermont Joins Lawsuit Against Trump To Maintain ACA Subsidies.
- + Senate Healthcare Bill Could Rescue MinnesotaCare Funding Cuts.
- + McCain, Murkowski Say They Support Bipartisan Healthcare Deal.
- + Bipartisan Healthcare Deal Includes Provisions For Democrats And Republicans.
- + Sen. Johnson To Question OPM Nominees On Congressional Healthcare Contributions.
- + Key Questions Surround The Senate's Bipartisan Healthcare Proposal.
- + Commentary Considers Health Reform.

OPIOID NEWS:

- + Rep. Marino Withdraws From Consideration For Drug Czar Position After Criticism.
- + Trump Says He'll Formally Declare National Emergency To Combat Opioid Epidemic Next Week.
- + DOJ To Consider Repeal Of Law Blocking DEA From Halting Opioid Shipments.
- + Investigation Of Alleged Fentanyl Shipping Operation Leads To Multiple Indictments.
- + Opioid Crisis Causing Increase In Hepatitis C Cases.
- + Hospitals Move Forward On Opioid Response Strategies Despite Lack Of Federal Funding.
- + PhRMA Calls For Repeal Of Law Limiting DEA's Opioid-Response Capabilities.
- + Healthcare Providers Seek Alternative Pain Treatments In Response To Opioid Epidemic.
- + Beaver County Becomes Third In Pennsylvania To Sue Pharmaceutical Companies Over Opioid Crisis.

HEALTHCARE NEWS:

- + UnitedHealth Posts Higher Q3 Earnings, Beats Analysts' Expectations.
- + Columnist Warns Federal Retiree Health Premiums Could Increase Markedly If House Budget Proposal Becomes Law.
- + Wisconsin Bill Would Prohibit University Of Wisconsin Employees From Working At Planned Parenthood.
- + Arkansas Health Care Association Joins Coalition To Support Limits On Payouts For Lawsuits.

+ Pennsylvania Regulators Issue More Nursing Home Citations But Understate Incidents' Severity, Experts Say.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS:

+ Vulnerable Elderly Increasingly Becoming Victims Of Emergencies, Disasters.

NUTRITION & OBESITY:

+ Google Maps Pulls Experimental "Calorie Counting" Feature From App After Criticism.

MEDICARE:

+ Expanded Medicare Enrollment Options Give Seniors More To Sort Out.

+ Opinion: CMS Proposal To Exempt Rural Physicians From MIPS Will Do More Harm Than Good.

MEDICAID & CHIP:

+ "Bickering" Over CHIP, Community Health Centers Reportedly Harming Nation's Healthcare.

+ Arkansas Governor Says Insurance Rate Hikes Will Not Threaten State Medicaid Expansion.

+ Michigan Democrats Say Proposed Medicaid Cuts "Devastating" For Vulnerable People.

HEALTH & MEDICAL NEWS:

+ Pharmaceutical Companies Deny Responsibility For Drug Pricing At Senate Hearing.

+ Senator Questions Pharmaceutical Industry About Doing Away With Rebates.

+ Families Of Deceased Troops Allege Pharmaceutical Companies "Knowingly Financed" Anti-American Militia In Iraq.

+ Massachusetts Senate Considers Bill To Require Data Submissions From Drug Companies.

+ Appeals Court Vacates Verdict In Talcum Powder Cancer Case.

+ Gene Tumor Boards Increasingly Providing Guidance On Cancer Care.

+ Mouse Study Finds Link Between Stress And Digestion In Female Mice.

+ New Hampshire Gov. Removes Member From Cancer Cluster Panel.

- + Scientific American Editors Voice Support For Cosmetics Safety Bill.
- + Transenterix CEO Says Senhance Won't Compete Directly With Intuitive Surgical's Da Vinci.
- + Johnson & Johnson's Animas Closure, Cessation Of Insulin Production Are Reflective Of Broader Healthcare Issues.
- + DC Council Disapproves Of Extending Contract To Manage City's Only Public Hospital.
- + People With Adverse Childhood Events Found More Likely To Suffer Health Problems As Adults.
- + Second TB Case Reported In Durham County, North Carolina.
- + VA Facility In Omaha Maintained Secret Waiting List Of Veterans Seeking Mental Health Appointments.
- + Hepatitis A Deaths Now Up To 19 In San Diego County.
- + Researchers Trying To Identify Early Signs Of Brain Damage In Professional Fighters.
- + US District Judge Orders Flint To Pick A Long-Term Water Source.
- + Researchers Identify Four Genes In Humans, Dogs, And Mice That May Be Linked To OCD.
- + Excessive Exercise May Be Linked To Higher Risk Of Buildup Of Plaque In Heart Arteries By Middle Age In Caucasian Men, Study Suggests.
- + NAFLD, Nonalcoholic Steatohepatitis The Fastest-Growing Reasons For Liver Transplants In Young Americans, Research Indicates.
- + Impax Laboratories Inks Deal To Merge With Amneal Pharmaceuticals.
- + Column: Allergan Restasis Case Exemplifies How Companies Manipulate Patent System.
- + Troy University Researchers Developing Anti-Depressants Through Zebrafish Studies.
- + District Judge Invalidates Allergan's Restasis Patents.
- + District Judge Refuses Pharmaceutical Companies' Request To Block Nevada Drug Pricing Law.
- + Experts Consider Whether Ignyta Pharmaceuticals' Cancer Treatment Can Be Compared To Pfizer's.
- + Study Reveals Association Between Depression, Sagging Testosterone Levels In New Fathers.
- + Men Who Receive Blood Donated By Previously Pregnant Women May Face Increased Risk Of Death Following The Transfusion, Study Indicates.
- + Physician Warns Of Dangers Of Online Companies Selling Designer Substances.
- + Oversized Eyedrops Waste Patient's Money And Medicine By Design.
- + More Hospitals Investing In Housing And Support For Homeless To Reduce ER Visits.

GLOBAL HEALTH:

- + China Confirms H5N6 Bird Flu Outbreak In Central Province.
- + Op-Ed: Canada Must Push For National Registry Of Payments From Companies To Physicians.

NATIONAL NEWS:

- + House Panel Sets Puerto Rico Recovery Hearing For Next Week.
- + Puerto Rican Delegate: Trump Has Given Everything We've Asked For.
- + Desperate Puerto Ricans Turning To Wells At Superfund Site For Water.
- + Discussing Obama And Slain Soldiers, Trump Cites Death Of Kelly's Son.
- + Trump Says He Was "Surprised" By The "Dishonesty In The Media."
- + Trump Warns McCain, "I Fight Back And It Won't Be Pretty."
- + White House Urges Corker To "Get Out Of The Name-Calling."
- + White House Denies Trump Joked Pence Wanted To "Hang" Gays.
- + Senate Committee Subpoenas Page, Seeks Information From Flynn's Son.
- + Obama UN Ambassador Says Unmasking Requests Were Made In Her Name.
- + Trump Says Fed Chairman Pick Coming Soon, Source Says Early November.
- + Dow Tops 23,000 For First Time.
- + Trump Calls On Americans To Say "Merry Christmas" During Holidays.
- + Trump Drops In Forbes 400 Ranking.
- + Trump DC Judicial Nominee Addresses Judiciary Committee.
- + Pruitt Seeks To Assure Senators Over Biofuels Mandate.
- + Sessions Creates Watchdog For Asset Forfeiture Program.
- + Zinke Booster Now Expresses Concerns About His Public Land Policies.
- + Chao Silent On Federal Money For Miami's Metrorail.
- + Fox News Poll: Jones, Moore Tied At 42% In Dec. 12 Special Election.
- + Three Polls Show Virginia Governor's Race "Within The Margin Of Error."

- + Two Polls Show Democrat Murphy Up Double Digits In New Jersey Governor's Race.
- + Pence's Fundraiser Benefiting Collins Draws "About 80" Protesters.
- + California House Republicans Get Large Financial Boost From PAC's Fundraiser With Pence.
- + Endorsing Flake Primary Foe Ward, Bannon Rips McConnell, Senate Republicans.
- + Hill Analysis: Trump's Support Gives Barletta Edge In Crowded Primary.
- + Eight Democrats On CNN's List Of "10 Senate Seats Most Likely To Switch Parties" In 2018.
- + Hawley Spokesman Sidesteps Question On Whether Candidate Would Back McConnell.
- + SLF Unveils Microsite Targeting Democrat Donnelly On Outsourcing.
- + Nelson Raises Nearly \$1.8M In Q3, Has \$6.3M Banked For Reelection Race.
- + Testimony Continues In Menendez's Federal Corruption Trial.
- + New Wildfires Emerge In Santa Cruz Mountains.
- + Weinstein Resigns From His Company; Amazon Exec Steps Down.
- + Women Denounce Harassment In California's State Legislature.
- + NYTimes A1: Secretive "Self-Help" Group For Women Requires Members To Be Branded.
- + Trump Accuser Describes Earlier Harassment Experience.
- + Pence Says Walking Out Of Colts Game Was "Right Thing To Do."
- + NFL Owners, Players Meet To Discuss Anthem Protests.
- + Google Serves "Fake News" Ads On Fact-Checking Sites, NYTimes Finds.
- + National Archives Warned Administration To Preserve Documents.
- + Bipartisan Group To Urge Trump To Alter Policing Policies.
- + Open Society Discloses \$18 Billion In Donations From Georges Soros.
- + Duckworth: Congress Seeking To Remove Protections For Disabled.
- + WSJournal Decries Court Ruling Absolving Prosecutors For Using False Information.
- + WSJournal Applauds Gov. Brown's Veto Of Campus Sexual Assault Bill.
- + WPost Offers Farewell To Former Communications Vice President.

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP:

- + New York Times.

- + Washington Post.
- + Wall Street Journal.

THE BIG PICTURE:

- + Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

LAST LAUGHS:

- + Late Night Political Humor.

Leading the News:

SENATORS REACH BIPARTISAN AGREEMENT TO FUND ACA SUBSIDY PAYMENTS. The New York Times (10/17, Kaplan, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports on its front page that Sens. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Patty Murray (D-WA) "have reached a bipartisan deal to provide funding for critical subsidies to health insurers that President Trump said last week that he would cut off," Alexander said on Tuesday. This agreement aims "to stabilize health insurance markets under the Affordable Care Act." Under the agreement, "the subsidies would be funded for two years, a step that would provide at least short-term certainty to insurers." The article says Trump called the deal a "short term" solution.

USA Today (10/17, Jackson, 8.62M) reports that Trump again criticized the ACA on Tuesday, saying, "Obamacare is a disgrace to our nation. ... We are solving the problem of Obamacare." He also said the ACA was "dead" in his opinion. But after being told about the bipartisan deal, Trump said lawmakers "are working together and I know very much what they're doing, OK?"

In a front-page article, the Wall Street Journal (10/17, A1, Armour, Peterson, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) quotes Alexander as saying, "Sen. Murray and I have an agreement. ... Democrats feel like there are protections there...at the same time we give significant flexibility to states."

The AP (10/17, Fram) reports that Trump "spoke favorably about the bipartisan compromise, which is still likely to face opposition in Congress." Alexander added that Trump had been encouraging, and that he "likes this idea." The article says that although the deal "is a breakthrough, they still need to secure the support of fellow Republicans and Democrats." The piece adds that Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) "was noncommittal, while Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., welcomed the agreement as a step forward that will provide stability for insurance markets in the short-term."

On its front page, the [Washington Post](#) (10/17, A1, Sullivan, Eilperin, 10.38M) reports “Republican leaders did not immediate[ly] endorse the Alexander-Murray framework, raising new questions about whether it would find any traction.” The article adds that for now, “many Republican senators are distancing themselves from the emerging Alexander-Murray plan.”

[Bloomberg News](#) (10/17, Edney, Wasson, Litvan, 4.52M) reports that if the proposal “becomes law, it could end a chaotic week that saw the White House move to dismantle parts of the Affordable Care Act even as Trump took credit for pushing lawmakers to work out the fixes.”

[Reuters](#) (10/17, Abutaleb, Cowan) reports that Murray said about the deal, “We are ironing out a few of the last details right now but I am very optimistic that we will be able to make an announcement with all the details very soon.” For his part, Alexander stated, “This takes care of the next two years.” He added, “This is a small step. I’d like to undersell it, not oversell it.”

Also covering the story are [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/17, story 2, 2:35, Muir, 14.63M), [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/17, story 2, 0:30, Holt, 16.61M), [USA Today](#) (10/17, Berry, 8.62M) in a second story, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/17, Levey, Mascaro, 4.49M), the [Washington Times](#) (10/17, Boyer, 541K), the [New York Post](#) (10/17, Fredericks, 4.31M), [Politico](#) (10/17, Haberkorn, 3.6M), [CNBC](#) (10/17, Mangan, Pramuk, Coombs, 3.48M), [The Hill](#) (10/17, Sullivan, 1.68M), the [Huffington Post](#) (10/17, Fuller, Bobic, Cohn, 5.74M), [NPR](#) (10/17, Kodjak, 2.4M), the [Washington Examiner](#) (10/17, Leonard, 465K), [Roll Call](#) (10/17, McIntire, 134K), and [Modern Healthcare](#) (10/17, Meyer, Subscription Publication, 238K).

Mark Walker Calls Bipartisan Deal “An Affront To GOP Promises To Repeal” ACA. [The Hill](#) (10/17, Sullivan, 1.68M) reports that in response to the announcement about the bipartisan deal, Rep. Mark Walker (R-NC), chairman of the conservative Republican Study Committee in the House, dismissed it “as an affront to GOP promises to repeal President Obama’s signature legislation.” Walker said, “Anything propping [Obamacare] up is only saving what Republicans promised to dismantle.”

The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/17, King, 465K) reports that Walker tweeted, “The GOP should focus on repealing & replacing Obamacare, not trying to save it. ... This bailout is unacceptable.”

In a separate article, the [Washington Examiner](#) (10/17, King, 465K) reports that Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) “shrugged off criticism from House conservatives Tuesday that it was a ‘bailout.’” He said, “I appreciated President Trump’s encouragement and his recommendation that it was important to continue the cost-sharing payments for two years in order to avoid harming millions of Americans. ... That is kind of comment that I welcome, and I think his support is important.”

Another article in [The Hill](#) (10/17, Roubein, 1.68M) also covers the story.

Heritage Foundation Fellow Slams Bipartisan Deal To Fund ACA Subsidy Payments. [The Hill](#) (10/17, Greenwood, 1.68M) reports that on Tuesday, Ed Haislmaier, a senior research fellow in healthcare policy for the Heritage Foundation, “ripped a bipartisan deal...that would provide funding for” ACA subsidy payments to insurers. He stated, “For Congress, the most important thing is to recognize that funding the cost sharing reduction subsidies – as many are now calling for – would prop up the subsidized ObamaCare exchange market, but would do absolutely nothing to stabilize the broader, unsubsidized individual market.”

Mark Meadows Calls Bipartisan Deal A “Good Start.” [The Hill](#) (10/17, Weixel, 1.68M) reports that on Tuesday, Rep. Mark Meadows (R-NC), chairman of the House Freedom Caucus, “said more work needs to be done to get conservatives to support a bipartisan Senate deal to extend critical ObamaCare payments to insurers, but he called it a starting point.” Meadows is quoted as saying, “There are elements in the Alexander-Murray plan that we can build on, but much more work needs to be done.” He characterized the agreement as a “good start.”

The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/17, Weaver, 465K) also covers the story.

Connecticut Lawmakers Praise Bipartisan Deal. The [Connecticut Mirror](#) (10/17, Radelat) reports that the bipartisan deal “would also restore \$106 million in funding for advertising and marketing of the Affordable Care Act that helps people enroll in insurance plans.” Commenting on the agreement, Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) said, “This bipartisan agreement is a victory for American patients and consumers, showing how we can work together across party lines. ... Extending payments for critical healthcare subsidies ensures that countless Americans will retain access to their healthcare, in spite of the president’s repeated attempts to sabotage insurance markets.” Meanwhile, Sen. Chris Murphy (D-CT) “called the agreement ‘good news.’”

The Secretary in the News:

TRUMP MAY BE CONSIDERING ALEX AZAR TO REPLACE PRICE AS HHS SECRETARY, SOURCES SAY. [Politico](#) (10/17, Restuccia, Johnson, Karlin-Smith, Dawsey, 3.6M) reports President Trump “is leaning toward nominating Alex Azar, a former pharmaceutical industry executive and George W. Bush administration official, to serve as Health and Human Services secretary, according to two White House officials.” If confirmed, Azar would replace former HHS Secretary Tom Price who resigned last month following criticism about his use of private jets and military planes. The article adds that according to several unnamed sources, other possible candidates for the post, including CMS Administrator Seema Verma and FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, “are no longer under consideration.”

[Reuters](#) (10/17, Walsh) reports that Azar served as “deputy secretary at HHS during the administration of President George W. Bush before joining drugmaker Eli Lilly and Co, first as

senior vice president of corporate affairs and communications, and later as president of Lilly USA, its U.S. affiliate.”

The Washington Post (10/17, Eilperin, Goldstein, 10.38M) reports that “both of the HHS secretaries for whom Azar worked are supporting him for the position.” Mike Leavitt on Tuesday said Azar was “an experienced, competent conservative who is confirmable.” Tommy Thompson praised Azar’s “record of proven competence” and combination of private- and public-sector management and “deep substantive health-care knowledge.”

The New York Daily News (10/17, Silverstein, 3.61M) reports that while Azar has experience working at HHS, he spent most of the last decade “working for the same drug industry he would be expected to oversee while leading the department.”

The Hill (10/17, Savransky, 1.68M) the Washington Times (10/17, Persons, 541K), the Indianapolis Star (10/17, Groppe, 479K), and the Indianapolis Business Journal (10/17, 37K) also cover the story.

TRUMP SAYS HE WILL NOMINATE A NEW HHS SECRETARY SOON. The AP (10/17) reports that on Tuesday, President Trump said he is “‘more than close’ to naming a new health and human services secretary.” He added that if his choice for HHS Secretary is confirmed, “it will be...fantastic.”

DEMOCRATIC LAWMAKERS WANT TRUMP ADMINISTRATION TO JUSTIFY DECISION TO END ACA SUBSIDY PAYMENTS. The Washington Examiner (10/17, Leonard, 465K) reports that on Tuesday, congressional Democrats “demanded that the Trump administration justify its decision to end insurer payments, accusing him of doing so not for legal reasons, but to ‘sabotage’ Obamacare.” They wrote to President Trump and Acting HHS Secretary Eric Hargan, seeking “documentation to show which factors were considered in Trump’s decision to end the payments, known as cost-sharing reduction, or CSR, subsidies.” The lawmakers “asked for any analyses that were conducted, including what impact his decision would have on health insurance costs, access to coverage, and federal spending.”

HHS in the News:

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION REPORTEDLY PREVENTING UNDOCUMENTED MINORS WHO WERE RAPED FROM OBTAINING ABORTIONS. The Huffington Post (10/17, Foley, 5.74M) reports, “Many undocumented immigrant girls seeking safety in the United States are raped during their journeys,” but when “they arrive, they are put in custody of a government that is now obstructing access to abortion.” The article says earlier this year, the Trump Administration implemented new rules “to prevent undocumented minors in government custody from getting abortions. Since March, the government has required shelters to get its approval before releasing girls for abortion-related services – approval that officials have refused to grant.” The piece adds

that officials are demanding that “minors be sent to crisis pregnancy centers that discourage them from seeking abortions, and at times have intervened directly to discourage girls from terminating their pregnancies.” The Office of Refugee Resettlement said in a statement, “There is no constitutional right for a pregnant minor to illegally cross the U.S. border and get an elective abortion while in federal custody.”

Undocumented Immigrant Minor Files Another Lawsuit Seeking Permission For An Abortion. The Washington Post (10/17, Sacchetti, Somashekhar, 10.38M) reports, “The American Civil Liberties Union is accusing the Trump administration of illegally blocking a 17-year-old Central American immigrant from having an abortion and will urge a federal judge in Washington on Wednesday to clear the way for her and other young immigrants to terminate their pregnancies.”

The Dallas Morning News (10/17, Wang, 984K) reports that “Jane Doe,” a 17-year-old undocumented and unaccompanied immigrant in Texas, has filed another lawsuit seeking permission for an abortion. The article explains that Doe’s previous lawsuit was dismissed, but that she has filed another federal lawsuit in a different court against the heads of the Department of Health and Human Services, the Administration for Children and Families, and the Office of Refugee Resettlement. The American Civil Liberties Union is representing Doe in the lawsuit, and “has requested a temporary restraining order to allow Doe to have an abortion.”

The New York Daily News (10/17, Cullen, 3.61M) reports that the Administration for Children and Families said in a statement that under federal law, the Office of Refugee Resettlement can “decide what is in the best interests of a minor in the unaccompanied alien children program and, in this case, her unborn baby.”

The Daily Caller (10/17, Carr, 521K) reports that Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton said that ruling in favor of Doe would “create a right to abortion for anyone on earth who enters the US illegally. And with that right, countless others undoubtedly would follow. Texas must not become a sanctuary state for abortions.” CNN (10/17, Levenson, Burnside, 33.59M) also covers the story.

HHS TO HOLD NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SMALL BUSINESS GRANTS IN MILWAUKEE.

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (10/17, Hauer, 628K) reports the Department of Health and Human Services will hold a national conference on the Small Business Innovation and Research and Small Business Technology Transfer grants in Milwaukee from November 7 to November 9. During the conference, “around 100 program managers from” the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Food and Drug Administration, and the National Institutes of Health will be in Milwaukee, and “attendees will be able to meet one-on-one with the program managers to learn how to submit successful applications.” Walter Koroshetz, the director of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, will give one of the keynote addresses at the conference.

BENEFITS OF IMPLEMENTING VALUE-BASED CARE IN QUESTION. STAT (10/17, 43K) reports that “the implementation of value-based care is a flop so far,” as “costs have continued to skyrocket,” Medicare “has lost money on accountable care organizations,” and “forecasted quality

gains have not materialized.” The article explains that Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Director Seema Verma has begun “began soliciting new ideas last month for changing how care is delivered and paid for by the government.” According to STAT, Verma’s request “charted a new course for the agency’s innovation center, saying it wants to cut red tape, empower consumers, and ‘allow physicians and other providers to focus on providing high-quality healthcare to their patients.’”

OPINION: HHS SHOULD USE EMERGENCY PRESCRIPTION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO HELP THOSE AFFECTED BY RECENT HURRICANES. Brian Nyquist, the executive director of the National Infusion Center Association, writes in an opinion piece in The Hill (10/17, 1.68M) that the Department of Health and Human Services should enact the Emergency Prescription Assistance Program to help those who are struggling to obtain their prescriptions because of recent hurricanes. Nyquist explains that “the program provides a mechanism for more than 70,000 enrolled retail pharmacies nationwide to process claims for certain kinds of prescription drugs, specific medical supplies, vaccines and some forms of medical equipment for uninsured individuals in a federally-identified disaster area.”

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE DEFENDS CONTRACT AWARDED TO FORMER NEXTCARE CEO. “The federal Indian Health Service agency is defending a contract it awarded” in September to Arizona-based Tribal Emergency Medicine, “whose CEO formerly led a firm that paid \$10 million to settle allegations of submitting false claims to government health programs,” the AP (10/17) reports. “Tribal Emergency Medicine CEO John Shufeldt previously led NextCare Inc., a multistate chain of urgent-care clinics,” the article explains. In 2009, a former employee filed a lawsuit against NextCare “on behalf of the U.S. government alleging the company conducted hundreds of unnecessary allergy and respiratory tests on patients and then submitted bills for the tests to government programs. ... The lawsuit also alleged the company inflated billings as part of a practice known as upcoding.”

HEALTH EXPERTS CALL FOR CHANGES TO FOOD ENVIRONMENT AS CDC RESEARCH SHOWS RISING OBESITY RATES. With obesity rates in the US at “a new high,” public health experts are calling for “an aggressive shift in strategy – one that would change the food environment through initiatives such as soda taxes,” USA Today (10/17, Toy, 8.62M) reports. Traditional “public health efforts have centered on communicating messages about what is healthy in the hopes of changing people’s behavior,” but new research by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s National Center for Health Statistics shows a steady increase in obesity rates among US adults, up from 30.5 percent in 1999-2000 to 39.8 percent in 2015-2016. The article cites “Craig Hales, the study’s lead researcher and a medical epidemiologist at the CDC,” and notes that “physician Jerome Adams, who was sworn in as surgeon general in August, on Monday cited obesity as among the Department of Health and Human Services’ three top priorities,” with the other two being mental health and addiction.

BRENNAN: NLM IS A “SAFE HARBOR” FOR INFORMATION. STAT (10/17, Blau, 43K) interviews National Library of Medicine Director Patricia Brennan, who discusses efforts to improve the accessibility of data. “The library is a safe harbor for information,” Brennan told STAT. “We are counted on to openly curate the important health knowledge of an era – and preserve it across eras.” Brennan insists that the NLM, part of the National Institutes of Health, “has not received any directive to restrict our information or change the information we have available,” unlike other agencies which have restricted public access to certain information under

the Trump Administration. “I have a buffer between me and the political,” she said during a recent talk to journalists at the NLM, referring to Dr. Francis Collins, head of the NIH, an Obama appointee who has kept his job under the new Administration.

OPINION: US SHOULD FUND MORE RESEARCH ON HOW TO CARE FOR PEOPLE WITH ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE. Rob Egge, the chief public policy officer of the Alzheimer’s Association, writes in an opinion piece in The Hill (10/17, 1.68M) that “this week, leading experts in dementia care and services are gathered at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for the National Research Summit on Care, Services and Supports for Persons with Dementia and Their Caregivers.” Egge argues that while funding for research to prevent or cure Alzheimer’s disease is crucial, the federal government should also fund research on how to better care for those already living with the disease.

MORE RESEARCHERS KEEPING PRIMATES IN SHARED CAGES RATHER THAN ALONE. The NPR (10/17, Greenfieldboyce, 2.4M) “Shots” blog reports that more researchers are keeping primates in shared cages rather than alone. According to a survey, the percentage of research labs that kept primates in cages alone decreased from 59% in 2003 to 35% in 2014. The article reports that the National Institutes of Health’s Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare’s Guide for the Care and Use Of Laboratory Animals says shared cages should be the “default” for primates.

Health Reform:

TRUMP CALLS ON CONGRESS TO FIX “OBAMACARE MESS” AT HERITAGE FOUNDATION EVENT. The Hill (10/17, Bowden, 1.68M) reports President Donald Trump told a conservative gathering at the Heritage Foundation that he “commends” the bipartisan legislation negotiated by Sens. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Patty Murray (D-WA) to stabilize the healthcare system and said Congress should fix the “ObamaCare mess.” Trump also said, “I’m pleased that Democrats have finally responded to my call for them to take responsibility for their ObamaCare disaster and work with Republicans to provide much needed relief to the American people.” The Hill adds that “the bipartisan deal got a cold shoulder from Republicans on Tuesday, suggesting it faces a rocky path to become law.”

PRESIDENT TRUMP MAY HAVE TO LOBBY FOR BIPARTISAN HEALTHCARE DEAL. Politico (10/17, Haberkorn, Cancryn, 3.6M) reports that a bipartisan deal negotiated between Sens. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Patty Murray (D-WA) to stabilize health insurance markets may rely on President Trump’s support. The President praised the legislation as “a very good solution” Tuesday, but also said later to the Heritage Foundation, “While I commend the bipartisan work done by Sens. Alexander and Murray – and I do commend it – I continue to believe Congress must find a solution to the Obamacare mess instead of providing bailouts to insurance companies.” Sen. Mike Rounds (R-SD) said, “The fact that the president has indicated a real interest in seeing a bipartisan fix like this move forward for a short-term fix is critical.” Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell added that a vote has not been scheduled on the legislation, saying, “We haven’t had a chance to think about the way forward yet.”

TRUMP SAYS SENATE GOP WILL RESUME WORK ON ACA REPEAL BILL AFTER TAX REFORM. The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/17, Morrongiello, 465K) reports that on Tuesday, President Trump predicted that “Senate Republicans will return to healthcare reform as soon as Congress passes tax cuts, claiming GOP leaders still have the votes to pass a bill that would redirect federal funding for Obamacare to the states.” He is quoted as saying, “We are very close.” The article says Trump also endorsed the bipartisan deal that seeks to shore up ACA marketplaces.

[U.S. News & World Report](#) (10/17, 1.73M) also covers the story.

TRUMP BLAMES DEMS FOR PREMIUM HIKES FOR ACA PLANS. [The Hill](#) (10/17, Weixel, 1.68M) reports that on Tuesday, President Trump “blamed Democrats for any premium spikes for ObamaCare plans, even as key senators announced a bipartisan deal aimed at saving the insurance markets from actions taken by the administration.” Trump tweeted, “Any increase in ObamaCare premiums is the fault of the Democrats for giving us a ‘product’ that never had a chance of working.”

SENS. BENNET, KAINE UNVEIL PROPOSAL TO ADD PUBLIC OPTION TO ACA. [The Hill](#) (10/17, Sullivan, 1.68M) reports that on Tuesday, Sens. Michael Bennet (D-CO) and Tim Kaine (D-VA) unveiled a bill which seeks “to add a government-run ‘public option’ plan to ObamaCare, modeled on Medicare.” The article says the proposal, “part of a long-running debate in the Democratic Party about how far to go in expanding government-run health insurance, would move ObamaCare to the left, but does not go as far as Sen. Bernie Sanders’s (I-Vt.) ‘Medicare for all’ plan.” The piece adds that rather than eliminate the ACA and replace with Medicare for everyone, this bill “would provide an option modeled on Medicare as a choice alongside private plans offered through the existing ObamaCare system.”

SOME STATES, INSURERS SCRAMBLING TO RAISE RATES FOLLOWING TRUMP’S DECISION TO END ACA SUBSIDY PAYMENTS. Carolyn Y. Johnson writes in the [Washington Post](#) (10/17, 10.38M) “Wonkblog” that state insurance regulators and insurers “scrambled to raise premiums for insurance plans sold on the Affordable Care Act exchanges Monday, after the White House announced it was ending key federal subsidy payments.” The piece says some insurers are only now raising prices following President Trump’s decision to end ACA subsidy payments. However, in several states, “insurance companies had already priced in a possible end of CSRs to their rate requests, anticipating President Trump’s move.”

SENATE GOP’S SLIM MAJORITY THREATENED BY THE AGE AND ILLNESSES OF CERTAIN LAWMAKERS. The [AP](#) (10/17, Fram) reports, “Top Republicans coping with a razor-thin majority in the Senate as they try pushing a partisan agenda are running smack into another complication – the sheer age and health issues of some senators.” The article adds that Sen. Thad Cochran (R-MS), aged 79, returned to Washington, DC on Tuesday “after a month of treatment at home. A statement said he still had urological issues and his treatment ‘could affect his work schedule.’” The piece also mentions Sen. John McCain (R-AZ), 81, who is receiving treatment for brain cancer, and says that in July, the Senate delayed a vote to repeal the ACA for a week so that McCain could participate.

SENS. TOOMEY, COTTON UNVEIL NEW BILL TO EXEMPT CERTAIN PEOPLE FROM ACA'S INDIVIDUAL MANDATE. The Hill (10/17, Weixel, 1.68M) reports Sens. Pat Toomey (R-PA) and Tom Cotton (R-AR) have unveiled legislation that "would exempt certain people from ObamaCare's requirement that everyone must purchase health insurance or pay a fine." The lawmakers said the ACA's individual mandate is "cruel," and "they want to exempt working class Americans from the requirement." The measure "would exempt anyone who earns less than the national median household income; lives in a state where the average premium increased by more than 10 percent year over year; or anyone who lives in a county with only one insurer."

INSURERS MAY LOSE ABOUT \$1 BILLION DURING THE REMAINDER OF 2017 IF ACA SUBSIDY PAYMENTS END, ANALYSIS INDICATES. The Washington Examiner (10/17, King, 465K) reports a new analysis conducted by Avalere Health indicates ACA plans "will post losses of up to \$1 billion for the rest of 2017 due to President Trump's decision to cut off insurer payments." These losses differ "from state to state, with North Dakota plans losing the least with \$1.2 million for the rest of 2017 and Florida losing the most with \$200 million." The article says the analysis highlights the impact of Trump's decision, and the possible effect on ACA insurers if Congress fails to take action.

FEDERAL FUNDING FOR INDIANA'S ACA NAVIGATORS CUT BY 82%. The Indianapolis Star (10/17, Rudavsky, 479K) reports the Trump Administration recently cut "funds to support its Navigator program, which helps consumers find coverage through the marketplace and enroll for Medicaid." The move deeply impacted Indiana, which "saw an 82 percent cut in its funding, going from \$1.6 million in 2016 to \$296,704 for 2017." The article says these decreases have caused concern that people will be unable to find assistance to enroll in ACA plans. The piece adds, however, that in many cases, "federally qualified health centers have their own navigators and other entities also support individuals who can assist with enrollment."

PITTSBURGH, ERIE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESES SETTLE LAWSUITS OVER ACA'S CONTRACEPTION MANDATE. The AP (10/17, Mandak) reports, "The Pittsburgh and Erie Roman Catholic dioceses have settled lawsuits seeking to overturn an Affordable Care Act mandate that would have forced them to provide contraceptive and abortion-inducing drugs or services as part of their employee health care plans." Earlier this month, the Trump Administration announced it was rescinding the ACA's contraception mandate, and issued new rules which "broadened 'conscience protections' to include nonprofits and certain other businesses that claim a moral objection to contraception or abortion, even if it's not religious-based." The article says the US Supreme Court had ordered the plaintiffs and the US government to settle the suits, and on Tuesday, Pittsburgh Bishop David Zubik, the lead plaintiff in the case, announced the settlement, saying that it "restores religious freedom granted by the First Amendment."

DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES IN MINNESOTA'S GUBERNATORIAL RACE UNANIMOUSLY SUPPORT SINGLE-PAYER HEALTHCARE SYSTEM. The St. Paul (MN) Pioneer Press (10/17, Stassen, 527K) reports that as debate over the fate of the ACA continues, "Minnesota Democrats who would be governor are near united in their prescriptions: Universal and single-payer is the way forward." The article says during a recent debate, "the half-dozen Democratic-Farmer-Labor candidates gave nods to supporting universal health care." Four of them "proudly said they

supported a single-payer health care model, meaning a publicly financed system.”

NORTH DAKOTA INSURANCE COMMISSIONER SAYS HE WILL NOT ALLOW MORE RATE HIKES FOR ACA PLANS. The [AP](#) (10/17, Nicholson) reports that on Tuesday, North Dakota Insurance Commissioner Jon Godfread said “he will deny any additional rate increases” for ACA plans being offered for 2018. Godfread warned last week that President Trump’s decision to end ACA subsidy payments to insurers could raise rates by up to 10 percent. On Tuesday, Godfread wrote to Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota, Medica and Sanford Health Plan, saying he would not allow any more increases. He stated that “this is an issue that is between insurance carriers and the federal government,” and that it was his “duty to look out for those consumers who have had to absorb multiple rounds of increases to their health insurance premiums without receiving any assistance from the federal government.”

CENTENE RAISES PREMIUMS IN ARKANSAS BY 21.4 PERCENT. The [Arkansas Democrat Gazette](#) (10/17, Davis, 319K) reports that Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson (R) said additional premium increases for plans on the state’s exchange will have a “minimal impact” on the cost of the state’s expanded Medicaid program. Due to the increases, “the state will pay higher premiums next year to provide coverage under Arkansas Works,” but the costs are likely to be offset by the elimination of cost-sharing reduction payments. The article explains that Centene has raised its average premium in the state by 21.4 percent.

CELTIC INSURANCE/MHS TO RAISE AVERAGE ACA PLAN PREMIUMS IN INDIANA BY 35.7 PERCENT. The [Indianapolis Business Journal](#) (10/17, 37K) reports that Celtic Insurance Co./MHS is increasing its average premiums for ACA exchange by 35.7 percent to \$496 per month. The article points out that the company “is one of two insurers that have committed to the Obamacare exchanges for Indiana next year.”

NEW JERSEY REGULATORS APPROVE PREMIUM INCREASES FOR INDIVIDUAL ACA PLANS. The [Philadelphia Inquirer](#) (10/17, Brubaker, 1.71M) reports that the New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance approved average rate increases for individual ACA plans for next year. Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey will increase rates 24.3 percent and AmeriHealth New Jersey rates will rise by 17.1 percent. The Inquirer adds, “Were it not for uncertainty over federal policy, such as the elimination of payments to insurers to cover out-of-pocket costs for consumers and weakened enforcement of the requirement that individuals buy health insurance, the increases would have been significantly lower, Horizon said.”

The [AP](#) (10/17) reports that AmeriHealth has expanded its service and will offer plans in 13 of the state’s 21 counties under the new rates next year.

MASSACHUSETTS STATE SENATORS PROPOSE WIDE-RANGING HEALTHCARE REFORM BILL. The [AP](#) (10/17, Salsberg) reports Massachusetts Senate leaders filed a bill Tuesday to which “aims to squeeze out between \$475 million and \$525 million in overall health care savings by 2020.” The “wide-ranging proposal” includes provisions to “curb price increases for prescription drugs, reduce the number of unnecessary visits to hospital emergency rooms and

smooth out vast disparities between payments made to smaller community hospitals and their large Boston counterparts.” The AP reports that the measure is “likely to undergo changes as it makes its way through the legislative process.”

VERMONT JOINS LAWSUIT AGAINST TRUMP TO MAINTAIN ACA SUBSIDIES. VT Digger (10/17, Mansfield, 3K) reports Vermont Attorney General TJ Donovan announced Tuesday that his state will join a lawsuit along with 17 other states and DC against President Trump over his “decision to cut off federal health insurance subsidies designed to help low-income sick people.” Donovan explained, “There’s got to be some sort of process here. ... You just can’t say one day, ‘We’re going to stop making these payments from the federal government.’ That would be too arbitrary. It comes down to process.” The article reports that 13,000 Vermont residents receive federal cost-sharing reduction subsidies.

SENATE HEALTHCARE BILL COULD RESCUE MINNESOTACARE FUNDING CUTS. The Minneapolis Star Tribune (10/17, Brooks, 1.27M) reports that the bipartisan legislation proposed by Sens. Patty Murray (D-WA) and Lamar Alexander (R-TN) clarifies that lowering premiums in the state insurance marketplace, as Minnesota has done, will not cause a reduction in federal healthcare subsidies. The measure is in response to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Service’s decision on the state’s ACA waiver application, which determined that the state would lose \$742 million in funding for its MinnesotaCare program. Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) said, “They want to encourage things like what Minnesota did,” adding, “What we did was set a path for other states to do the same thing, and if you cut us off, you cut off other states.”

MCCAIN, MURKOWSKI SAY THEY SUPPORT BIPARTISAN HEALTHCARE DEAL. The Hill (10/17, Carney, 1.68M) reports Sens. John McCain (R-AZ) and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) both gave their support behind a bipartisan healthcare bill Tuesday. McCain said, “While this deal certainly doesn’t solve all the problems caused by Obamacare, it shows that good faith, bipartisan negotiations can achieve consensus on lasting reform. ... I look forward to voting in support of this bill.” Murkowski called it a “short-term deal” and added that it was “an important step as we work towards long-term solutions.” The Hill added, however, that it is “not clear if the Alexander-Murray deal can get the 60 votes needed in the Senate, much less win over the more conservative House GOP caucus.”

BIPARTISAN HEALTHCARE DEAL INCLUDES PROVISIONS FOR DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS. The Wall Street Journal (10/17, Hackman, Mathews, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) examines the compromise between Democrats and Republicans in the healthcare proposal announced Tuesday by Sens. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Patty Murray (D-WA). The Journal observes that Democrats secured restored funding for cost-sharing payments for two years and funding for ACA outreach, while Republicans added increased flexibility for waivers and catastrophic plans.

SEN. JOHNSON TO QUESTION OPM NOMINEES ON CONGRESSIONAL HEALTHCARE CONTRIBUTIONS. Roll Call (10/17, Lesniewski, 134K) reports Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI), Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Chairman, plans to question nominees for the Office of Personnel Management Wednesday on the agency’s policy of paying “employer contributions for members of Congress and staffers who were moved from the Federal Employee

Health Benefits system to the District of Columbia exchange set up under" the ACA. The nominees, Jeff T.H. Pon for director and Michael Rigas for deputy director, were informed that the committee sought documents regarding that topic as part of the confirmation process. Johnson added, "I've already spoken to both the nominee for director and for the deputy director. ... They're fully aware of it, and you can expect that question coming up in the hearing tomorrow as well."

KEY QUESTIONS SURROUND THE SENATE'S BIPARTISAN HEALTHCARE PROPOSAL.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/18, King, Leonard, 465K) examines some key questions about the bipartisan plan circulated by Sens. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Patty Murray (D-WA). The piece discusses whether the plan could pass in the House given the Republican Study Committee's tweet that the deal was a "bailout," and whether the President will support it. The Examiner also assesses how states will benefit from the measure, including whether 2018 rates will be affected, and the piece asks whether the Administration might delay open enrollment which is set to start November 1.

COMMENTARY CONSIDERS HEALTH REFORM. Several outlets offer opinions on health reform.

Matt O'Brien writes for the [Washington Post](#) (10/17, 10.38M) "Wonkblog" that President Trump is taking a "three-pronged approach to undermining Obamacare" which includes cutting back on outreach, letting people buy "bare-bones coverage" again, and "pulling the plug on Obamacare's cost-sharing reduction payments." O'Brien discusses Trump's statements in support of a bipartisan bill that would continue the CSRs, but concludes, "The only thing that is clear is that right now Trump is threatening to take steps to make insurance more expensive and markets less stable than they were before."

Brian Balogh writes in a [Washington Post](#) (10/17, 10.38M) piece that last week, President Trump again sought to erase "his biggest humiliation since taking office: the failure to repeal and replace Obamacare." The executive order he signed includes a provision to expand access to "Association Health Plans." Balogh wonders if Trump understands what comprises an association, and adds, "We really can't blame the president for not knowing the scope of associations, though. Few Americans understand how associations affect every facet of their daily lives."

Aaron Blake writes for the [Washington Post](#) (10/17, 10.38M) "The Fix" blog that President Trump first justified his decision to stop paying ACA subsidies to insurers because the insurance companies were "getting rich" off of them, pointing to their stock prices. Blake adds that Trump was "cherry-picking his data" from the date the ACA passed, not when it was "actually implemented," and leaves out the fact that insurers are "generally taking losses from their Affordable Care Act plans." The piece concludes, "Very little of it makes sense, and coming from a president who seemed to vacillate daily on what he wanted from an Obamacare replacement, it suggests Trump doesn't really have a game plan or understanding of how all of this works."

Joshua Jamerson writes in a Wall Street Journal (10/17, 6.45M) “WashWire” piece that President Trump has indicated he would sign a bipartisan effort to shore up ACA marketplaces. Jamerson adds that Sens. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Patty Murray (D-WA) are working on such a measure. It would authorize funding for ACA subsidy payments to insurers, and provide states with more flexibility to reshape the healthcare law.

Bloomberg View (10/17, 4.52M) editorializes that the bipartisan agreement reached by Sens. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Patty Murray (D-WA) to shore up the health insurance system is “exactly the kind of rational compromise that Washington needs more of.” The editorial urges President Trump to “get his own party, especially in the House of Representatives, to help pass it.” The piece concludes that “by demonstrating how readily the law can be tweaked in productive ways that appeal to both Democrats and Republicans, it could begin to lay a bipartisan foundation for the U.S. health-care system.”

Michael Katz, a pediatric anesthesiologist, writes in The Hill (10/17, 1.68M) that the healthcare debate in Washington is “missing a fundamental point: the real problem with American health care is the fundamentally flawed business structure underlying its delivery.” Katz explains that the “system is exceptionally good at caring for the very sick, injured and dying but poorly equipped to promote a healthy society and the healthy lifestyles that consume less care.” The piece recommends that the President and Congress enact policies to “develop a consolidated and integrated health system” and concludes that we need leaders who recognize “our society’s moral obligation to achieve health equality.”

David O. Barbe, President of the American Medical Association, writes in the U.S. News & World Report (10/17, 1.73M) that the Trump Administration’s “decision to end cost-sharing reduction payments not only disrupts the health insurance market, but contradicts many of the health reform priorities expressed this year by both the president and members of Congress.” The decision will “not increase competition or consumer choice” of health insurance plans, will “cause average premiums to rise by 20 percent in 2018,” and will “increase the federal deficit by \$194 billion from 2017 through 2026,” according to Congressional Budget Office analyses. Barbe concludes, “Clearly, the recent action taken by the administration has created a crisis point where partisan differences must be set aside in favor of a bipartisan agreement to maintain the stability of the non-group insurance market place” and that “our patients are counting on Congress to do the right thing.”

The New York Daily News (10/18, 3.61M) editorializes that the bipartisan legislation authored by Sens. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Patty Murray (D-WA) is a “modest bill” that is a “no-brainer fix.” The piece observes that the bill is a “bipartisan remedy” to a “health-insurance crisis of the President’s own making – restoring subsidies that enable insurance companies to offer plans with affordable copays, and taking other steps to stabilize, not sabotage, Obamacare markets.” Despite being a “no-brainer,” the piece says that it has no “guarantee that it has any chance of passage in the Republican-controlled House.”

John Stoehr, in a U.S. News & World Report (10/17, 1.73M) column, calls for “constitutional conservatives” to recognize that President Trump’s announcement to end payments to health insurers that help cover out-of-pocket costs for low-income Americans “is actual tyranny.” The

piece discusses the Anti-Federalist papers during the founding era which “understood a nation is a social contract.” The column concludes that “self-described constitutional conservatives are not considering the fullness of the Constitution” and “are focusing on one vital aspect – which is that Congress has the power of the purse – while overlooking another vital aspect – which is the goal of protecting and defending against the state of nature.”

Abbe Gluck, professor at Yale Law School’s Solomon Center for Health Law and Policy, writes for Vox (10/17, 1.54M) that “Modern American history has never seen as full-scale an effort to sabotage a valid law as we have with President Trump and the Affordable Care Act.” The “intentional, multi-pronged sabotage of the ACA ... violates both Trump’s constitutional obligations and quite possibly the obligations of his Department of Health and Human Services.” Gluck adds that the Constitution requires the President to “take Care that the laws be faithfully executed,” and concludes, “The president has a right not to like the ACA. But so long as it is the law of the land, he does not have the right to undermine it through the use of executive power.”

Jay Bookman writes in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution (10/17, 1.16M) that when President Trump claims that “Obamacare is finished,” what he means is that he “is ensuring that the program helps as few Americans as possible, at as high a cost as possible to taxpayers, in hopes that by inflicting a lot of pain he can destroy the program’s growing popularity.” Bookman continues, “Trump has taken a hostage with no real idea of what ransom he wants in return” because after more than two years, Trump has “offered up nothing in the form of a plan or a bill” – aside from what congressional Republicans “vomited forth.” Bookman concludes that Trump’s “plan” is to cause as much chaos and pain to as many people as possible, and that he is “doing it because he can destroy, but he cannot build.”

Eric Leenson and Dan Geiger, Co-Directors of the Business Alliance for a Healthy California, write in the San Diego Union-Tribune (10/17, 668K) that “small businesses are among the most negatively impacted by our nation’s health care system’s runaway costs and corporate insurance system.” The column says that the Healthy California Act, SB 562, provides for Medicare-for-all and would especially benefit small businesses by “lowering overall health expenditures,” “freeing businesses from the burden and expense of managing and paying for employees’ health care,” and “the stress of administering” health insurance plans. The piece concludes by quoting a former Cigna vice president, Wendell Potter, who said, “When businesses understand the benefits of single payer and speak out, there will be no stopping the movement for universal health care.”

Daniel Hemel, assistant professor at the University of Chicago Law School, in an op-ed in the Washington Post, reprinted in the Harrisburg (PA) Patriot-News (10/17, 553K), calls for states to seize the “opportunity to restore order to their insurance markets” following President Trump’s announcement his Administration will not pay ACA subsidies. The states can make those subsidy payments themselves, encouraging “insurers to stay on the exchanges rather than rushing to the exits,” then sue the Department of Health and Human Services for reimbursement. The states are likely to win such a suit, as “the Supreme Court has interpreted similar statutory language to require the federal government to make payments even in the absence of a congressional appropriation.”

Ed Kilgore writes in the Daily Intelligencer (NY) (10/17, 519K) that “only legislation can bring back the payments that offset insurers’ obligation under the Affordable Care Act to ensure that low-income consumers can buy an individual health-insurance policy without ruinous out-of-pocket expenses.” While Sens. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Patty Murray’s (D-WA) proposals had long included continuing cost-sharing reduction payments, their “negotiations were made both more urgent and more politically complicated last week when the president abruptly announced that he was canceling the payment” of the CSR reimbursements. Kilgore adds that the “main problem with this I-broke-it-so-Congress-can-fix-it approach is timing” because rates for 2018 have already been set and the “damage may already be done.”

The Tulsa (OK) World (10/17, 320K) editorializes that President Trump’s “most controversial move” to “halt federal payments for cost-sharing reductions that help millions of lower-income Americans afford coverage” has caused “concern for the viability of the ‘Obamacare’ marketplaces.” The editorial adds that President Trump “owns the political consequences” of the decision. The World concludes that “if the cost of that insurance skyrockets and the availability disappears because of Trump’s actions, the president will have a hard time blaming the implosion of Obamacare on Obama.”

Opioid News:

REP. MARINO WITHDRAWS FROM CONSIDERATION FOR DRUG CZAR POSITION AFTER CRITICISM. NBC Nightly News (10/17, story 4, 0:20, Holt, 16.61M) reported, “President Trump says his nominee to be the next US drug czar is withdrawing from consideration for the job.”

The CBS Evening News (10/17, lead story, 1:40, Mason, 11.17M) reported that “Congressman Tom Marino [R-PA] withdrew under pressure today as President Trump’s nominee to be drug czar” following a television report revealing his “role in legislation that makes it easier for drug companies to distribute opioids in the midst of an epidemic that’s claiming thousands of lives.”

The New York Times (10/18, A19, Baker, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports, “The collapse of Mr. Marino’s nomination highlighted the Trump administration’s troubles formulating a response to a crisis that the president has called unlike any” other in the history of the US.

The Washington Post (10/17, Gearan, Bernstein, Higham, O’Keefe, 10.38M) reports Trump announced the withdrawal of Rep. Tom Marino’s nomination as the head of the Office of National Drug Control Policy. The article points out that the announcement follows a Washington Post/60 Minutes” investigation that found Marino had “helped steer legislation in Congress making it harder for the Drug Enforcement Administration to act against giant drug companies.” The Los Angeles Times (10/17, Lauter, 4.49M) reports Trump said that “we’re going to be looking into” Marino’s actions.

Reuters (10/17, Lynch, Brice) reports that “the legislation championed by Marino...was the product of a drug industry quest to weaken the US Drug Enforcement Administration’s authority to stem the flow of painkillers to the black market.” The article reports that “the law made it almost impossible for the DEA to freeze suspicious shipments of narcotics to prevent them from reaching the street.”

The Wall Street Journal (10/17, Nicholas, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports after the investigation’s findings were released, many members of Congress called for his nomination to be withdrawn and praised the President after he made the announcement. The AP (10/17, Superville, Daly) reports Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-MO) said that she will introduce legislation to repeal the law. The Philadelphia Inquirer (10/17, Whelan, 1.71M) reports Reps. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) and Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ) are leading an effort to repeal the bill in the House. Fitzpatrick said in a press release, “This legislation is about righting a wrong and upholding our commitment to keep our constituents safe.”

The Hill (10/17, Savransky, Rouben, 1.68M) points out that several agencies that “play a role in the federal response to the opioid epidemic” lack Senate-confirmed leaders, including the Department of Health and Human Services, the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, and the DEA.

Also covering the story are Politico (10/17, Ehley, 3.6M), the Washington Examiner (10/17, Giaritelli, 465K), the ABC News (10/17, Stracqualursi, 2.83M) website, CNN (10/17, Vazquez, 33.59M), Bloomberg News (10/17, Olorunnipa, 4.52M), NPR (10/17, Chappell, 2.4M), The Atlantic (10/16, Berman, 1.64M), the New York Daily News (10/17, Silverstein, 3.61M), and the Allentown (PA) Morning Call (10/17, Olson, 312K).

Columnist: Withdrawal Of Marino Nomination Is Another Obstacle To Addressing The Opioid Crisis. Dan Janison writes in his column in Newsday (NY) (10/17, Janison, 1.64M) that the White House is facing “hurdles on the path to solutions” for the opioid crisis. Janison argues that the controversy surrounding Marino’s nomination to head the DEA is one of those obstacles for the Trump Administration.

Commentaries Address Opioid Crisis, Marino’s Withdrawal. A USA Today (10/17, 8.62M) editorial is critical of the President’s delay in addressing the opioid epidemic, saying he said “he would declare the emergency” over the summer, “but didn’t follow through.” USA Today says both Congress and the President need to do more, and in the wake of Rep. Tom Marino’s withdrawal Tuesday as Trump’s nominee to lead the ONDCP, the editorial urges Trump to nominate “a public health expert, not a politician.”

John M. Gray, president and CEO of the Healthcare Distribution Alliance, argues in USA Today (10/17, 8.62M) that the 2016 law which prompted Marino’s withdrawal, known as the Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act, was “a bipartisan, commonsense step forward to improve enforcement efforts and combat the opioid epidemic.” He notes that it went into effect in April 2016, “well after the opioid epidemic took hold. Based on this timeline, the law

had no bearing on any enforcement slowdown that occurred in prior years, as alleged by the reporting.”

TRUMP SAYS HE'LL FORMALLY DECLARE NATIONAL EMERGENCY TO COMBAT OPIOID EPIDEMIC NEXT WEEK. [USA Today](#) (10/17, Korte, 8.62M) reports that after first promising “to declare a national emergency to confront the epidemic 68 days ago,” President Trump “now says he'll formally declare that emergency next week, a two-month delay that he said underscores the ‘time-consuming work’ behind his administration’s response to the crisis.” Neither the White House nor the President “would explain what’s holding up the proclamation, though Trump suggested that he’s wading through uncharted waters.”

DOJ TO CONSIDER REPEAL OF LAW BLOCKING DEA FROM HALTING OPIOID SHIPMENTS. [USA Today](#) (10/17, Johnson, 8.62M) reports the Justice Department is weighing whether to seek a repeal of the Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act, legislation passed in 2016 “that ultimately undermined law enforcement’s ability to stop suspicious shipments of opioids that have been driving surges in overdose deaths across the country.” That review follows “a joint investigation by The Washington Post and 60 Minutes” which found “that the federal Drug Enforcement Administration was essentially handcuffed by the law pushed by Rep. Tom Marino,” President Trump’s nominee to oversee national drug policy who has withdrawn his name from consideration in the wake of the investigation. Also reporting on the calls for review and repeal of the law are the [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/17, Bennett, Bierman, 4.49M), the [Washington Times](#) (10/17, Noble, 541K), and [The Hill](#) (10/17, Rouben, 1.68M).

INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED FENTANYL SHIPPING OPERATION LEADS TO MULTIPLE INDICTMENTS. The [Oregonian](#) (10/17, Bernstein, 878K) reports 38-year-old Jian Zhang has been “accused of shipping fentanyl from China into the United States, deliveries that resulted in multiple drug overdoses across the country, including four in Oregon in 2015.” Along with Zhang, 20 other “people from China, Canada and the United States have been indicted” in connection with an alleged drug trafficking scheme that has been dubbed “Operation Denial.” Members of the Portland High Intensity Drug Trafficking Interdiction Task Force have worked on the effort to bust the operation. The Oregonian mentions that DHS was involved in the investigation. The task force is not mentioned by [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/17, story 5, 1:40, Holt, 16.61M), the [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) (10/17, 831K), and the [NPR](#) (10/17, Lucas, 2.4M) website, which also highlight the indictment of Zhang and Xiaobing Yan, who are both Chinese nationals. NPR also mentions that HSI was involved in the investigation. NPR quotes Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein as saying, “For the first time, we have indicted major Chinese fentanyl traffickers who have been using the Internet to sell fentanyl and fentanyl analogues to drug traffickers and individual customers in the United States.”

OPIOID CRISIS CAUSING INCREASE IN HEPATITIS C CASES. The [Washington Post](#) (10/17, Zezima, 10.38M) reports that “the rampant spread of hepatitis C” is another consequence of the national opioid crisis. The article reports that new cases of the disease “have nearly tripled nationwide in just a few years, driven largely by the use of needles among drug users in their 20s and 30s.”

HOSPITALS MOVE FORWARD ON OPIOID RESPONSE STRATEGIES DESPITE LACK OF FEDERAL FUNDING. Ahead of President Trump's expected announcement declaring the opioid epidemic a national emergency, Modern Healthcare (10/17, Johnson, Subscription Publication, 238K) reports on the need for federal funding to address the issue, and how hospitals and health systems "say they're moving forward on strategies they have developed to respond to the crisis" even without that funding. One example cited in the article is Linden Oaks Behavioral Health, "a mental health and substance abuse treatment provider affiliated with Edward-Elmhurst Health system in the Chicago suburbs." According to Modern Healthcare, "Linden Oaks has deployed continuing education for clinicians to improve their prescribing habits," and "has also altered its electronic medical record system to automatically prescribe naloxone when patients are over a certain high-dose threshold on their opioid prescriptions. Clinicians can also look up information from the state's prescription drug-monitoring program within the EHR itself rather than having to go to an outside system."

PHRMA CALLS FOR REPEAL OF LAW LIMITING DEA'S OPIOID-RESPONSE CAPABILITIES. The Hill (10/17, Delk, 1.68M) reports in its "Briefing Room" blog that the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) called Tuesday for the repeal of the Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act of 2016, which "has come under renewed scrutiny after a new joint report from the Washington Post and '60 Minutes' that pointed to the law as undercutting the Drug Enforcement Administration's ability to crackdown on the flow of the drugs into the market." In addition, PhRMA "urged Congress to reconsider the penalties for DEA-registered drug distributors who fail to ensure the safety of opioid distribution by reporting suspicious purchases of the drugs."

HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS SEEK ALTERNATIVE PAIN TREATMENTS IN RESPONSE TO OPIOID EPIDEMIC. U.S. News & World Report (10/17, 1.73M) reports healthcare providers are responding to the nation's opioid epidemic, and the related rise in drug overdose deaths, by "aggressively turning to new approaches" for treating patients with chronic pain. "Emerging trends focus on improving physical and emotional health and counseling patients to realize their own role in relieving their pain, says Bhiken Naik, an anesthesiology and neurosurgery professor at the University of Virginia Health System," and the article notes that "Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines published in 2016 recommend that physicians turn to cognitive behavioral therapy, exercise and patient education," along with alternative medications, before resorting to opioids. In line with that "growing focus on the possibility of a psychological component to pain that needs attention," the University of Virginia and the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center "are both expanding their Enhanced Recovery After Surgery programs to treat surgery pain using as little opioid medication as possible."

BEAVER COUNTY BECOMES THIRD IN PENNSYLVANIA TO SUE PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES OVER OPIOID CRISIS. The AP (10/17) reports that Beaver County has become the third Pennsylvania county "to sue pharmaceutical companies for allegedly contributing to an opioid addiction crisis that has resulted in thousands of overdoses nationally in recent years." The county's lawsuit "against 14 drug companies and several doctors the county claims have contributed to 279 overdose deaths there since 2012" was announced on Oct. 16 by attorney Bob Peirce, Jr.

Healthcare News:

UNITEDHEALTH POSTS HIGHER Q3 EARNINGS, BEATS ANALYSTS' EXPECTATIONS. The AP (10/17, Murphy) reports that on Tuesday, UnitedHealth Group posted a 26-percent increase in third-quarter earnings, beating Wall Street expectations. The largest insurer in the US "also raised its forecast for 2017 again, and signaled that it expects more growth next year." As a result, the company's shares "shot up past \$200 to reach another all-time high after markets opened." Data show UnitedHealth added almost "1 million more customers compared to last year's quarter, largely due to growth in its Medicare and retirement business."

The Wall Street Journal (10/17, Prang, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports that UnitedHealth said it earned \$2.6 billion, or \$2.66 per share for the third quarter, compared to \$2.1 billion a year ago. The company anticipates total earnings of about \$10 per share for this year. It raised its forecast from \$9.75 to \$9.90 per share from the previous quarter.

Reuters (10/17, Humer) reports that UnitedHealth expects earnings to grow by "13 to 16 percent in 2018 as medical costs remain low, even as it adjusts to new healthcare rules that U.S. President Donald Trump has promised to put in place." The article says UnitedHealth is considered "the bellwether for the industry," and its gains on Tuesday also benefited companies "such as Anthem Inc, Aetna Inc, and Cigna Corp." The piece adds that UnitedHealth has largely exited ACA exchanges, and CEO Dave Wichmann "said the company only had about 30,000 customers receiving subsidies in four states, and that any impact" from Trump's plans to end subsidy payments "would be 'extremely small.'"

The Minneapolis Star Tribune (10/17, Snowbeck, 1.27M) reports that UnitedHealth's shares rose by five percent during trading on Tuesday. The company intends to "continue to focus investments going forward on its fast-growing Optum division for health services, including pharmaceutical benefits management, non-hospital health care and technology," according to Wichmann.

Bloomberg News (10/16, Tracer, 4.52M) also covers the story.

COLUMNIST WARNS FEDERAL RETIREE HEALTH PREMIUMS COULD INCREASE MARKEDLY IF HOUSE BUDGET PROPOSAL BECOMES LAW. Columnist Joe Davidson writes in the Washington Post (10/17, 10.38M) "PowerPost" blog that along "with President Trump's earlier budget plan, which would slice and dice federal retirement, Capitol Hill and the White House have mounted a multi-front assault on federal worker compensation." He warns that if the Budget Resolution put forward by the House "becomes law, federal retiree health insurance premiums could rise significantly over time because growth in the government's subsidy would be limited to the increase in inflation."

WISCONSIN BILL WOULD PROHIBIT UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN EMPLOYEES FROM WORKING AT PLANNED PARENTHOOD. The AP (10/17) reports the Wisconsin state Senate's health committee is expected to hold a public hearing on a bill that would prohibit University of Wisconsin employees from "from performing abortions or providing training at facilities where abortions are performed, other than hospitals." The bill "targets an arrangement between Planned Parenthood and UW in which faculty members work part-time at the organization's Madison clinic."

ARKANSAS HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATION JOINS COALITION TO SUPPORT LIMITS ON PAYOUTS FOR LAWSUITS. The Arkansas Democrat Gazette (10/17, Moritz, 319K) reports multiple Arkansas business groups on Monday announced they will join a coalition to raise funding for and support a proposed state constitutional amendment to limit some kinds of payouts in lawsuits. State legislators "voted in the spring to have such rules put before voters as a proposed amendment to the Arkansas Constitution," and the proposal will be decided by constituents in the November 2018 general election. The coalition, Arkansans for Jobs and Justice, is supported by the Arkansas Health Care Association among other groups.

PENNSYLVANIA REGULATORS ISSUE MORE NURSING HOME CITATIONS BUT UNDERSTATE INCIDENTS' SEVERITY, EXPERTS SAY. The Harrisburg (PA) Patriot-News (10/17, Simmons-Ritchie, 553K) says that after investigative reports showed Pennsylvania regulators have neglected "to properly cite and penalize nursing homes for serious failures," the state Department of Health "appears to be taking a tougher line on nursing homes," with the department issuing twice as many immediate jeopardy citations against homes as those over the past three years combined. Advocates for elder care "confirmed that the department appeared to have gotten tougher on bad homes," but some "said... the department was either still understating the severity of nursing home incidents or their inspectors were failing to uncover incidents to begin with."

Emergency Response and Pandemic Preparedness:

VULNERABLE ELDERLY INCREASINGLY BECOMING VICTIMS OF EMERGENCIES, DISASTERS. CNN (10/17, Nedelman, 33.59M) reports California wildfires and Florida, Texas, and Puerto Rico hurricanes "have put a spotlight on vulnerable seniors – including a number of deaths that authorities have said were preventable." The article discusses the impact of each event on older adults in the affected communities, noting many experts "continue to grapple with how best to protect the elderly, who face difficulties evacuating from disasters, more health issues on average and perhaps even a greater share of the psychological impact." Concerning the deaths of 14 residents of the Florida nursing home at The Rehabilitation Center at Hollywood Hills, the article says the Florida Health Care Association "instructed each facility to prepare seven to 10 days of medication, oxygen and other medical necessities for each resident, according to spokesperson Kristen Knapp."

Nutrition & Obesity:

GOOGLE MAPS PULLS EXPERIMENTAL “CALORIE COUNTING” FEATURE FROM APP AFTER CRITICISM. The *New York Times* (10/17, Victor, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports Google Maps pulled an experimental “calorie-counting” feature, which showed how many calories someone could burn by walking to a certain destination. Some criticized the feature as being insulting for suggesting that people needed exercise, while others said the feature was dangerous for people with eating disorders.

Medicare:

EXPANDED MEDICARE ENROLLMENT OPTIONS GIVE SENIORS MORE TO SORT OUT. The *Palm Beach (FL) Post* (10/17, Elmore, 273K) reports, “Hundreds of Palm Beach County residents are calling advisors daily for help to sort out expanded options” for Medicare. “We definitely have more interest this year than last year,” said Desirae Mearns, lead project director for Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders (SHINE), adding that seniors in Palm Beach County have 46 plan options in 2018 compared to 43 last year.

OPINION: CMS PROPOSAL TO EXEMPT RURAL PHYSICIANS FROM MIPS WILL DO MORE HARM THAN GOOD. Caravan Health CEO Lynn Barr writes in an op-ed for *The Hill* (10/17, 1.68M) that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services’ “proposed rule to exempt two-thirds of the nation’s clinicians from the Medicare Incentive Payment System (MIPS) will do more harm than good” and furthermore would “disable the infrastructure of electronic health records (EHRs) that has been subsidized with \$37 billion taxpayer dollars.” Rural clinicians are exempt from quality reporting and “have provided lower quality care,” Barr writes, adding that CMS’ proposal to exclude reporting for pneumococcal and influenza vaccines – two particularly “important quality measures” – is shortsighted. “Our data clearly shows that more vaccines means fewer patients going to the hospital and fewer pneumonia-related deaths,” particularly for seniors.

Medicaid & CHIP:

“BICKERING” OVER CHIP, COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS REPORTEDLY HARMING NATION’S HEALTHCARE. Paige Winfield Cunningham writes in the *Washington Post* (10/17, 10.38M) “The Health 202” about the ongoing discussions between Democrats and Republicans over how to pay “for states to keep running the Children’s Health Insurance Program and for community health centers to care for low-income people,” and for how long to extend the funding. Cunningham is critical of lawmakers for their “bickering,” arguing that “if Congress were serious about funding the two programs without causing crippling uncertainty for states and providers, it could have tackled the issue months ago.” She also criticizes President Trump for “signing an executive order that many health-care experts warned could destabilize the marketplace even further by allowing individuals and small-business employees to buy narrower coverage through trade associations.”

ARKANSAS GOVERNOR SAYS INSURANCE RATE HIKE WILL NOT THREATEN STATE MEDICAID EXPANSION. The [AP](#) (10/17, DeMillo) reports Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson (R) said Tuesday that the 14.2 percent to 25 percent insurance rate hike approved by state regulators after President Trump ended cost-sharing reduction payments will not imperil the state's hybrid Medicaid expansion. "Under Arkansas' hybrid expansion program, Medicaid funds are used to purchase private plans for low-income residents through the insurance marketplace," the AP explains. State Democrats, however, "accused Hutchinson of glossing over the effect Trump's action will have."

MICHIGAN DEMOCRATS SAY PROPOSED MEDICAID CUTS "DEVASTATING" FOR VULNERABLE PEOPLE. [MLive \(MI\)](#) (10/17, Slagter, 947K) reports on a panel of Democratic state and local officials that convened to discuss "the best way to push back against the president's proposed \$700 billion cut to Medicaid funding in 2018." The group said the proposed Medicaid cuts would be "devastating" to senior citizens and people with disabilities and that opponents should emphasize the personal impact of the reductions.

Health & Medical News:

PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES DENY RESPONSIBILITY FOR DRUG PRICING AT SENATE HEARING. [Bloomberg News](#) (10/17, Edney, 4.52M) reports leading drug industry lobbyists at a Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions hearing alleged pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs), hospitals, and other groups are to blame for prescription medication prices. Groups testifying, including the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA), continued to "say that the measures used to assess them are incorrect, and that they only get a portion of the profit their critics say they do." PBMs at the meeting, however, "pointed the finger back at pharmaceutical companies, and said the cut they take as middlemen has no connection to how drugmakers set prices."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/17, King, 465K) reports the Pharmaceutical Care Management Association, which represents PBMs, refuted PhRMA's claims that PBMs and insurers focus "on list prices, which are not reflective of actual spending trends." The article notes Congress has passed bills intended to speed up generic approval at the FDA, and that Sen. Al Franken (D-MN) at the hearing questioned why drug prices are so high and "pointed out that taxpayers pay for research at the National Institutes of Health, and U.S. customers pay higher prices for the finished product."

SENATOR QUESTIONS PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY ABOUT DOING AWAY WITH REBATES. [STAT](#) (10/17, Swetlitz, 43K) reports that Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) "asked a panel of pharmaceutical industry representatives at a Senate committee hearing" about whether drugmakers and pharmacy benefit managers would be willing to do away with rebates. "Why don't we just get rid of rebates and let you negotiate directly with manufactures, take that \$100 billion a year, and just reduce the list price? Wouldn't it be simpler for us to understand where the money goes?" Alexander asked Mark Merritt, president and chief executive officer of the Pharmaceutical Care Management Association. Industry representatives said they would be

willing to consider the proposal, although they expressed doubt about the feasibility of enacting such a reform.

FAMILIES OF DECEASED TROOPS ALLEGE PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES

“KNOWINGLY FINANCED” ANTI-AMERICAN MILITIA IN IRAQ. USA Today (10/17, Madhani, 8.62M) reports a group of families of “dozens of U.S. troops killed or injured” during the Iraq war filed a federal lawsuit on Tuesday “against several U.S. and European pharmaceutical and medical supply companies, alleging that the corporations knowingly financed the anti-American militia Mahdi Army through bribes and kickbacks to officials at a government ministry controlled by the group.” The lawsuit names “some of the biggest names in the industry – including GE Healthcare, Johnson & Johnson, Pfizer, AstraZeneca and Roche,” and alleges they often paid kickbacks to officials in the Iraqi Ministry of Health, who “in turn used the proceeds to help fund the militia that carried out attacks against U.S. troops in Iraq.”

MASSACHUSETTS SENATE CONSIDERS BILL TO REQUIRE DATA SUBMISSIONS FROM DRUG COMPANIES.

The Boston Globe (10/17, McCluskey, 969K) reports Massachusetts Senate legislators on Tuesday revealed “sweeping health care legislation” addressing issues such as prescription treatment costs and hospital prices, which “proponents say will improve the state’s health care system and curb medical spending.” The new bill would mandate that “drug companies for the first time to submit data to the state Health Policy Commission and be scrutinized by the watchdog agency,” and “sets a target for controlling commercial spending on hospital care by slowing the rate of price growth at the most expensive hospitals.”

APPEALS COURT VACATES VERDICT IN TALCUM POWDER CANCER CASE. Bloomberg News (10/17, Fisk, 4.52M) reports a Missouri appeals court has vacated the \$72 million verdict in Fox v. Johnson & Johnson, ruling the case shouldn’t have been tried in St. Louis. “The verdict to the family of Jacqueline Fox, who died in 2015, was the first of a series of jury awards in the St. Louis court,” where juries “have awarded a total of \$300 million in verdicts” related to claims that Johnson & Johnson’s talc products cause ovarian cancer. According to the AP (10/17, Stafford), “the appeals court cited a Supreme Court ruling in June that placed limits on where injury lawsuits could be filed, saying state courts cannot hear claims against companies not based in the state where alleged injuries occurred.” In response, “Jim Onder, who is representing many plaintiffs in the lawsuits, has argued that Missouri is a proper jurisdiction because Johnson & Johnson packages and labels some products in Missouri.” Also reporting are Reuters (10/17, Raymond), the St. Louis Post-Dispatch (10/17, Currier, 831K), and Fierce Pharma (10/17, Sagonowsky).

GENE TUMOR BOARDS INCREASINGLY PROVIDING GUIDANCE ON CANCER CARE. The AP (10/18, Marchione) reports that patients with cancer are increasingly “having their care guided by gene tumor boards,” panels of experts that study “the patient’s cancer genes and match treatments to mutations that seem to drive the disease.” The gene tumor boards aim for “precision medicine, the right drug for the right person at the right time, guided by genes.” The AP adds that “Some doctors worry that tumor boards’ recommending off-label treatments diverts patients from research that would benefit all cancer patients,” and mentions that the “American Society of Clinical Oncology’s TAPUR study tests off-label drugs and shares results with their makers and federal regulators.”

MOUSE STUDY FINDS LINK BETWEEN STRESS AND DIGESTION IN FEMALE MICE. The [New York Post](#) (10/17, Steussy, 4.31M) reports new research published in Nature's Scientific Reports suggests stress may have the same effect on human digestion as a fattening diet. Researchers at Brigham Young University conducted the mouse study, which looked at the mice's gut microbiota; they found that the gut microbiome of female mice subjected to stress tests "actually changed to resemble that of an obese mouse," which "suggests that stress might impact metabolism just as much as diet, the researchers wrote." Male rats, however, "didn't have the same microbiome shift, but they did become more anxious and less physically active."

NEW HAMPSHIRE GOV. REMOVES MEMBER FROM CANCER CLUSTER PANEL. The [AP](#) (10/17) reports New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu said Tuesday he's removed Steve Kenda, a past Republican candidate for state Senate and governor, from the Seacoast Cancer Cluster Commission over an op-ed piece written by Kenda denying the existence of a cancer cluster. According to the AP, Sununu "said Kenda's participation has become too much of a distraction" from the purpose of the 21-member commission, which has for several years "been investigating a greater-than-expected number of cases of two types of rare childhood cancers in the seacoast region: rhabdomyosarcoma and pleuropulmonary blastoma."

SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN EDITORS VOICE SUPPORT FOR COSMETICS SAFETY BILL. In an article for the November 2017 issue, the editors of [Scientific American](#) (10/17, 878K) express support for the Personal Care Products Safety Act, which Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Susan Collins reintroduced in Congress last May. "The bill would require, among other things, that all cosmetics makers pay annual fees to the agency to help finance new safety studies and enforcement – totaling approximately \$20 million a year," which the FDA would use to "assess the safety of at least five cosmetics chemicals a year." The legislation "also gives the agency the authority to pull products off the shelves immediately when customers have reported bad reactions, without waiting for a review that can take multiple years." The editors highlight the importance of the bill, and the issues it addresses, in light of a petition filed earlier this year that called on the FDA to ban lead acetate from hair dyes.

TRANSENTERIX CEO SAYS SENHANCE WON'T COMPETE DIRECTLY WITH INTUITIVE SURGICAL'S DA VINCI. [Reuters](#) (10/17, Banerjee) reports Transenterix CEO Todd Pope on Tuesday "played down...the threat posed by his company's surgical robotic system," called Senhance, "to market leader Intuitive Surgical Inc, saying he did not expect the two to compete head on." Transenterix's share price surged – and Intuitive Surgical's fell – at the end of last week after the US Food and Drug Administration cleared Senhance for use, but "Pope said Senhance had a lot of ground to cover before it might have to compete directly with Intuitive's Da Vinci device, which has dominated robotic surgery purchasing since it was approved in 2000."

JOHNSON & JOHNSON'S ANIMAS CLOSURE, CESSATION OF INSULIN PRODUCTION ARE REFLECTIVE OF BROADER HEALTHCARE ISSUES. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/17, Lazarus, 4.49M) discusses the recent announcement from Johnson & Johnson saying the company is closing its Animas subsidiary and ceasing its production of insulin pumps, which creates new challenges from J&J customers that the Times says "mirror problems all too common in the healthcare industry – the turmoil that can arise when a medical-device or drugmaker halts sales, or when an insurer decides to no longer cover a specific pill, gadget or treatment." The article examines how such problems can affect healthcare customers and offers insight on how to

proceed.

DC COUNCIL DISAPPROVES OF EXTENDING CONTRACT TO MANAGE CITY'S ONLY PUBLIC HOSPITAL. The Washington Post (10/17, Itkowitz, 10.38M) reports six members of the Washington, DC council "expressed disapproval" of the request by Veritas of Washington LLC to renew its \$4.2 million consulting contract to manage the United Medical Center, which is "the city's only public hospital." The firm was hired last year "to stabilize the only full-service hospital east of the Anacostia River," but has shown "little progress in improving the hospital's finances or quality of care." The Post adds the company is "led by campaign donors to D.C. Mayor Muriel E. Bowser (D)." Because of the disapproval, the council will have 45 days instead of 10 to review the contract.

PEOPLE WITH ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EVENTS FOUND MORE LIKELY TO SUFFER HEALTH PROBLEMS AS ADULTS. The Denver Post (10/17, Baumann, 817K) reports on a study from the Colorado Department of Human Services and the University of Denver finding that "children who grow up in a dysfunctional or abusive home are more likely to develop depression and cancer as adults, and they're more likely to one day have children with health issues as well." The study was based on a survey of 3,677 Colorado residents 18 and over, and "measured adverse childhood experiences, which are events that range from physical, sexual or emotional abuse and different types of household dysfunctions such as family member incarceration." Overall, those who reported one such incident "were twice as likely to be diagnosed with depression, and those with four or more incidents were nearly twice as likely to suffer from cancer and almost six times more likely to experience depression." Their children also "were two to five times as likely to be diagnosed with Attention Deficit Disorder."

SECOND TB CASE REPORTED IN DURHAM COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA. The Durham (NC) Herald Sun (10/17, Johnson, 66K) reports on a second tuberculosis case in Durham County, North Carolina, explaining that "a student at Northern High School is being treated," as is a student at UNC Chapel Hill. Both "are being treated at home and will remain off campus until the threat of spreading the disease is over." The county health department will conduct "TB blood tests on people who were exposed at Northern." The Herald Sun adds, "Durham County reported 11 cases of active tuberculosis in 2016."

VA FACILITY IN OMAHA MAINTAINED SECRET WAITING LIST OF VETERANS SEEKING MENTAL HEALTH APPOINTMENTS. The AP (10/17) reports the Department of Veterans Affairs' Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System "maintained an unauthorized, secret waiting list of veterans for some Omaha mental health appointments, according to US Department of Veterans Affairs documents." The article points out that "the VA set up strict requirements for establishing waiting lists following a 2014 scandal that showed VA employees were covering up chronic delays with false paperwork and secret lists," and that the facility in Omaha was not on a list of 40 facilities that reportedly still had secret lists in 2016. VA officials declined to comment on how many employees were involved in maintaining the list or how many veterans were affected.

HEPATITIS A DEATHS NOW UP TO 19 IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY. The San Diego Union-Tribune (10/17, Sisson, 668K) reports there have now been 19 deaths and 507 confirmed cases in the ongoing hepatitis A outbreak in San Diego County, CA. Dr. Wilma Wooten, the county's

public health officer, said that the county is also investigating another 47 potential cases.

RESEARCHERS TRYING TO IDENTIFY EARLY SIGNS OF BRAIN DAMAGE IN

PROFESSIONAL FIGHTERS. STAT (10/17, Robbins, 43K) reports researchers have found that “active fighters,” boxers and mixed martial arts fighters, have “higher levels of two brain proteins, called neurofilament light and tau, compared to retired fighters or non-fighters,” and that “fighters with greater exposure to repetitive head trauma have lower brain volumes.” The findings are part of an ongoing study, and “researchers have enrolled close to 700 mixed martial arts fighters and boxers, both active and retired, in the past six years.” The investigators are seeking “to identify early signs of trauma-induced brain damage from subtle changes in blood chemistry, brain imaging, and performance tests,” which “may show up decades before visible symptoms such as cognitive impairment, depression, and impulsive behavior.”

US DISTRICT JUDGE ORDERS FLINT TO PICK A LONG-TERM WATER SOURCE.

The Detroit Free Press (10/17, Matheny, 1.07M) reports US District Judge David M. Lawson issued a summary judgment ordering Flint to select a long-term water source. The ruling “comes after Flint’s City Council has balked for months at entering into a long-term deal for water supplies from the city of Detroit via the regional Great Lakes Water Authority.”

RESEARCHERS IDENTIFY FOUR GENES IN HUMANS, DOGS, AND MICE THAT MAY BE

LINKED TO OCD. The NPR (10/17, Chen, 2.4M) “Shots” blog reports that researchers identified “four genes with the strongest links to OCD to date.” The researchers compared the DNA of dogs and mice with compulsive tendencies to the DNA of people with and without OCD. The findings were published online Oct. 17 in Nature Communications.

Newsweek (10/17, Firger, 991K) reports that the study “may help scientists develop more precise and effective treatments for the psychiatric condition.”

EXCESSIVE EXERCISE MAY BE LINKED TO HIGHER RISK OF BUILDUP OF PLAQUE IN HEART ARTERIES BY MIDDLE AGE IN CAUCASIAN MEN, STUDY SUGGESTS.

The New York Daily News (10/17, Scotti, 3.61M) reports that research suggests “Caucasian men who exercise three times above the US national guidelines for working out (150 minutes per week) are 86% more likely than black men, and those who exercise less, to develop a buildup of plaque in their hearts by the time they’re middle aged.”

The New York Post (10/17, 4.31M) runs a SWNS article reporting that investigators “compared 25-year exercise patterns and made the surprising discovery that very active white men are 86 percent more likely to experience a buildup of plaque in the heart arteries by middle age.” However, “this didn’t apply to black men, they discovered.” The findings were published in Mayo Clinic Proceedings.

NAFLD, NONALCOHOLIC STEATOHEPATITIS THE FASTEST-GROWING REASONS FOR LIVER TRANSPLANTS IN YOUNG AMERICANS, RESEARCH INDICATES. Reuters (10/17, Crist) reports that research indicates “nonalcoholic fatty liver disease [NAFLD] and its more aggressive form, nonalcoholic steatohepatitis, have become the fastest-growing reasons for liver transplants in young Americans.” Investigators found that “the number of liver transplants performed for NASH increased from 0.53% in 2002 to 4.46% in 2012, a nine-fold jump.” Reuters adds that “due to increasing childhood obesity, hypertension and diabetes...more young adults are reaching end-stage liver disease early in life, researchers say.” The findings were published online in Journal of Clinical Gastroenterology.

IMPAX LABORATORIES INKS DEAL TO MERGE WITH AMNEAL PHARMACEUTICALS. The Wall Street Journal (10/17, Rockoff, Cimilluca, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports Impax Laboratories and Amneal Pharmaceuticals recently agreed to merge in a deal that would establish the US’ fifth-largest generic medication producing company in terms of revenue. They said on Tuesday that the all-stock transaction would grant Impax shareholders 25 percent of a new company, while owners of Amneal would take the remainder. The new group will be called Amneal Pharmaceuticals and is expected to be worth as much as \$6.4 billion.

Reuters (10/17) reports Cantor Fitzgerald analysts wrote in a client note on the deal that the merger increases chances for Impax to grow from a mid-size drug maker to a leading generics and specialty medication company. The article says the combined company will produce “a diverse pipeline with more than 300 products either filed with the FDA or in active stages of development, Cantor analysts said.”

The San Francisco Business Times (10/17, Leuty, Subscription Publication, 904K) reports Impax ran “into a string of issues in recent years” while attempting to diversify beyond generic treatments, with FDA inspections exposing “problems a couple years ago” at a California facility.

The Philadelphia Inquirer (10/17, Loyd, 1.71M) and Fierce Pharma (10/17, Helfand) also report.

COLUMN: ALLERGAN RESTASIS CASE EXEMPLIFIES HOW COMPANIES MANIPULATE PATENT SYSTEM. Bloomberg View (10/17, 4.52M) columnist Joe Nocera offers commentary on Allergan’s attempts to transfer its Restasis patents to the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe --“a now-infamous patent ploy” – positing that the legal maneuvering represents “trickery” undertaken by many companies in the industry “to keep generics off the market.” According to Nocera, the “primary way” branded drug makers prevent generic competition “is by abusing the patent system.” He adds that a federal judge who ruled the Allergan patents are invalid simply “called Allergan out on” its “scam.” Nocera mentions Allergan issued a number of “citizen’s petitions” to the FDA and sued compounding company Imprimis on allegations that it violated FDA regulations.

TROY UNIVERSITY RESEARCHERS DEVELOPING ANTI-DEPRESSANTS THROUGH ZEBRAFISH STUDIES. The New York Daily News (10/17, Scotti, 3.61M) reports researchers at Troy University in Alabama are using zebrafish to develop anti-depressant treatments for humans

because fish reportedly are “a reliable animal to use in identifying depression.” According to one university researcher, the “neurochemistry (between fish and people) is so similar that it’s scary.” The National Institute of Mental Health estimates that nearly “16 million people had at least one major depressive episode in 2012.”

DISTRICT JUDGE INVALIDATES ALLERGAN’S RESTASIS PATENTS. Reuters (10/17, Wolfe) reports US district judge William Bryson on Monday ruled against Allergan’s patents for its dry-eye treatment Restasis, which the company transferred to New York state’s Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe last month on claims that the tribe’s status as a sovereign nation would prevent the patents from being reviewed by the US patent office. Bryson invalidated the patents for the \$1.5 billion treatment, calling it an attempt by Allergan to “rent” the tribe’s sovereign immunity. Allergan, however, said the move was justified because the same patents were already under review in federal court, while critics “said it was a cynical attempt to prolong the company’s monopoly on Restasis.”

DISTRICT JUDGE REFUSES PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES’ REQUEST TO BLOCK NEVADA DRUG PRICING LAW. The Las Vegas Review-Journal (10/17, Bekker, 458K) reports that on Tuesday, US District Judge James Mahan refused a request by the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America and the Biotechnology Innovation Organization “to immediately block a Nevada law requiring them to detail diabetes drug prices and disclose manufacturing costs and research investments come July.” Mahan said he did not find “immediate and irreparable harm” in the case because of the law’s timeline. The companies allege in the lawsuit that the law violates federal patent and industry trade secret rules.

EXPERTS CONSIDER WHETHER IGNYTA PHARMACEUTICALS’ CANCER TREATMENT CAN BE COMPARED TO PFIZER’S. Forbes (10/17, 5.11M) contributor Matthew Herper considers Ignyta Pharmaceuticals’ cancer treatment entrectinib that shrank one patient’s tumors and “has kept them in check for more than a year,” and, according to research presented at the World Conference on Lung Cancer, “shrank tumors in 79% of patients and kept working for a median 28.6 months, about 10 months longer than the current drug, Pfizer’s Xalkori, did in separate clinical trials.” Herper writes that nonetheless, the study “raises questions about whether it’s possible to compare similar cancer medicines, and whether it’s possible to keep innovating after a few gene-targeted drugs have been invented.”

STUDY REVEALS ASSOCIATION BETWEEN DEPRESSION, SAGGING TESTOSTERONE LEVELS IN NEW FATHERS. In “Well,” the New York Times (10/17, Quenqua, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports research indicates that postpartum depression “may occur in from 7 percent to 10 percent of new fathers, compared to about 12 percent of new mothers, and that depressed dads were more likely to spank their children and less likely to read to them.” Now, research published in the September issue of the journal *Hormones and Behavior* “has found a link between depression and sagging testosterone levels in new dads, adding physiological weight to the argument that postpartum depression isn’t just for women anymore.” In addition, the study revealed that “while high testosterone levels in new dads helped protect against depression in fathers, it correlated with an increased risk of depression in new moms.” The study abstract points out some 149 couples took part in the study.

MEN WHO RECEIVE BLOOD DONATED BY PREVIOUSLY PREGNANT WOMEN MAY FACE INCREASED RISK OF DEATH FOLLOWING THE TRANSFUSION, STUDY INDICATES. STAT (10/17, Begley, 43K) reports, "Men who received a blood transfusion from a woman who had ever been pregnant had a higher risk of dying prematurely than men who got blood from a man or a never-pregnant woman," researchers reported.

HealthDay (10/17, Thompson, 11K) reports researchers arrived at that conclusion after examining data on some 31,000 patients in Holland who "received 59,320 transfusions in all from one of three types of donors – men, never-pregnant women and women who'd been pregnant." Notably, "after receiving a single transfusion, the three-year death rate among men was 13.5 percent for those who received male blood, 13.1 percent for those who got never-pregnant female blood, and nearly 17 percent for those who received blood from a previously pregnant female." The findings were published in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Reuters (10/17, Rapaport) and Scientific American (10/17, Weintraub, 878K) also cover the story.

PHYSICIAN WARNS OF DANGERS OF ONLINE COMPANIES SELLING DESIGNER SUBSTANCES. In STAT (10/17, 43K) "First Opinion," Abraham Nussbaum, MD, chief education officer at Denver Health, an associate professor of psychiatry at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, writes about the dangers of online companies "selling compounds that have never been approved for human use but that are so similar to existing drugs they attract users...seeking an alternative to" physicians and dealers. Ostensibly these "designer" substances are sold for the purposes of "research." Dr. Nussbaum believes such companies "sideline the doctor, the pharmaceutical industry, and its regulators from the patient-physician relationship" and pose a danger to people buying substances from them.

OVERSIZED EYEDROPS WASTE PATIENT'S MONEY AND MEDICINE BY DESIGN. NPR (10/18, Allen, 2.4M) reports on its "Shots" page that ProPublica has found that pharmaceutical companies make eyedrops that overflow your eyes by design. The article says that for at least twenty-five years, those in the "eye care industry," including doctors, pharmaceutical officials, and researchers, have known "that eyedrops are much larger than the eye can hold." The article tells the story of a project in the early 1990s as Alcon where the team created a "microdrop" that would reduce waste but still maintain effectiveness. The product was "killed" because of the cost of getting FDA approval and the risk that it would lead to decreased sales. NPR also reports of similar research on the efficacy of smaller eyedrops that was funded by Allergan, yet Allergan does not make eyedrops in smaller sizes to date.

MORE HOSPITALS INVESTING IN HOUSING AND SUPPORT FOR HOMELESS TO REDUCE ER VISITS. Kaiser Health News (10/18, Bartolone) reports on a "growing number of hospitals nationwide" that have "invested in housing programs in recent years, from Florida to Chicago and farther west," with the goal of ending the cycle of emergency room use by homeless people by providing them housing along with a case worker. Rand Corp. researcher Sarah Hunter says, "There's pretty good evidence that it's more cost-effective to provide housing with supports than have these people live on the streets and just cycle in and out of emergency rooms and in-patient stays." The piece reports that the nonprofit hospitals' investment in these programs helps them

“meet their community service obligations in exchange for tax breaks.”

Global Health:

CHINA CONFIRMS H5N6 BIRD FLU OUTBREAK IN CENTRAL PROVINCE. [Reuters](#) (10/17, Gu, Mason) reports China’s Ministry of Agriculture confirmed that there is “an outbreak of bird flu at broiler chicken farms in” the city of Hexian in Anhui province. The outbreak in the central province has been caused by the H5N6 strain.

OP-ED: CANADA MUST PUSH FOR NATIONAL REGISTRY OF PAYMENTS FROM COMPANIES TO PHYSICIANS. Nav Persaud of Toronto’s St. Michael’s Hospital and the University of Toronto, Joel Lexchin of Toronto’s University Health Network, and Andrew S. Boozary of the University of Toronto and the Harvard Public Health Review write in an op-ed in [STAT](#) (10/17, 43K) that Canadian province Ontario “took a historic step” by introducing legislation to increase transparency on how drug companies interact with prescribers in an effort to understand how physicians receive payments from manufacturers. The authors advocate for this on a national scale and suggest the establishment of a registry of payments similar to that which is in place in the US.

National News:

HOUSE PANEL SETS PUERTO RICO RECOVERY HEARING FOR NEXT WEEK. [Reuters](#) (10/17, Cowan) reports that a House panel said Tuesday that it has scheduled an Oct. 24 hearing “to examine Puerto Rico’s hurricane recovery efforts and the role of a financial oversight board in those efforts.” The House Committee on Natural Resources, which last year worked on legislation creating the board to help Puerto Rico manage its debt, will hold the hearing.

PUERTO RICAN DELEGATE: TRUMP HAS GIVEN EVERYTHING WE’VE ASKED FOR. [Townhall](#) (10/17, Vespa, 523K) reports Puerto Rico’s delegate, Jenniffer Gonzalez-Colon, said in a recent [interview](#) with USA Today “that everything they’ve asked for, Trump has delivered.” Gonzalez-Colon told USA Today, “I will tell you that everything that the president said that he was going to send to the island, it’s getting there. The resources are there. The help is there.”

DESPERATE PUERTO RICANS TURNING TO WELLS AT SUPERFUND SITE FOR WATER. [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/17, story 11, 1:40, Holt, 16.61M) reported on the “deepening and dangerous water crisis” in Puerto Rico in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria. The EPA says “the desperate are breaking into water wells” at a Superfund site in Dorado “that may actually be contaminated.” NBC’s Gabe Gutierrez reported from the town that “even though there’s a clearly marked danger sign, people were willing to risk it.” He noted that “only 17 percent of the island has power, making it hard to pump and treat water as this crisis deepens.”

DISCUSSING OBAMA AND SLAIN SOLDIERS, TRUMP CITES DEATH OF KELLY'S SON.

President Trump's Tuesday remarks – in which he invoked the death of Chief of Staff Kelly's son while defending his claim one day earlier that former President Barack Obama and other presidents didn't always call the families of slain military members – received widespread media coverage, including reports on all three major network newscasts. Coverage was largely negative, highlighting that Kelly has been reluctant to publicly speak about his son's death.

In the lead story for NBC Nightly News (10/17, lead story, 2:25, Holt, 16.61M), Peter Alexander reported that “as the body of one of the American soldiers killed in Niger this month returns home to Florida and the White House confirms President Trump spoke to all four families of the fallen, the President's taking another swing at Barack Obama on the gravest of presidential obligations.” NBC played an audio clip of Trump saying in a Tuesday interview with Fox News Radio, “I think I've called every family of somebody that's died, and it's the hardest call to make. ... As far as other representatives, I don't know. You could ask General Kelly, did he get a call from Obama?” Alexander added, “The President invoking the memory of his chief of staff's son, Robert Kelly, a Marine killed in 2010.”

On the CBS Evening News (10/17, story 5, 2:40, Mason, 11.17M), Margaret Brennan reported, “White House officials claim to be unaware of whether Mr. Trump had spoken to Kelly before making the remark. The retired Marine Corps general has actively avoided calling attention to his son's death, making it clear he does not want it to be exploited.” Brennan added, “Today, despite the President's prodding, Kelly declined to comment. But a White House official, who requested anonymity, told CBS News, ‘I can tell you Obama did not call General Kelly after the death of his son.’ But White House records show that Kelly and his wife did attend a closed-door breakfast with Mr. And Mrs. Obama to honor Gold Star families a year after their son's passing.”

On ABC World News Tonight (10/17, story 3, 3:10, 14.63M), David Muir reported that “Kelly has indicated to the past in reporters that he did not want to talk publicly about the death of his son.” ABC's Cecilia Vega added that “Kelly has repeatedly made it clear to reporters he does not want to talk about his son's death. And he would not go on the record today. But the White House tells us he never got a call from...Obama. Obama aides do not dispute that. But they do say Kelly did attend a White House breakfast for Gold Star families, where he sat at the first lady's table.”

The Washington Post (10/17, Parker, 10.38M) reports, “For the past seven years...Kelly has gone out of his way to keep the death of his son free from politics.” However, Trump on Tuesday “thrust [Kelly's] son into the public and political glare, invoking the younger Kelly as part of a continuing attack on...Obama.” The President's “remark...was unplanned, said two White House officials, who said they were caught off-guard by Trump's comments. One said Kelly may have mentioned some details surrounding his son's death to the president in private — and the president then repeated them in public, a relatively frequent occurrence with Trump.”

Similarly, under the headline “Top General's Grief Becomes Political Talking Point For Trump,” the New York Times (10/17, Landler, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that Trump “is testing” Kelly's “long-held reluctance to discuss his loss. Mr. Trump, in defending his handling of

the deaths of four Green Berets in Niger, falsely claimed on Monday that...Obama did not contact the families of fallen troops. And on Tuesday, Mr. Trump brought to light that Mr. Obama never called Mr. Kelly after the death of his son." The Times adds that Kelly "has not addressed the dispute. But colleagues who worked with him at the Pentagon during that period said they did not recall him expressing unhappiness with the way Mr. Obama handled the death of his son. "

Writing for McClatchy (10/17, 67K), Kate Irby says that "Kelly had to endure every parent's worst nightmare when his son...stepped on a land mine in Afghanistan in 2010 and died. Now...Trump is calling into question whether...Obama ever called Kelly after that happened – dragging Kelly into a spat Trump started between the two presidents over whether Obama called the families of fallen soldiers."

The AP (10/17, Woodward, Lemire) similarly reports that Trump "has pulled bereaved military families into a painful political fight of his own making, going so far Tuesday as to cite the death of" Kelly's "son in Afghanistan to question whether...Obama and other presidents did enough to honor the military dead. He's boasted that 'I think I've called every family of someone who's died,' though AP found relatives of two soldiers who died overseas during Trump's presidency who said they never received a call or a letter from him. The White House said he did telephone on Tuesday the families of four soldiers who were killed in Niger nearly two weeks ago, the issue that had spawned the controversy this week."

Under the headline "After Trump Brings Chief Of Staff Into Controversy Over Condolence Calls, He Phones Families Of Killed Soldiers," the Los Angeles Times (10/17, Bierman, 4.49M) quotes White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders as saying in a Tuesday statement, "President Trump spoke to all four of the families of those who were killed in action in Niger. He offered condolences on behalf of a grateful nation and assured them their family's extraordinary sacrifice to the country will never be forgotten."

Under the headline "Twelve Days Of Silence, Then A Swipe At Obama: How Trump Handled Four Dead Soldiers," the Washington Post (10/17, Rucker, Lamothe, 10.38M) reports, "The White House did not receive detailed information from the Defense Department about the four...soldiers" – slain Oct. 4 in Niger – "until Oct. 12, and that information was not fully verified by the White House Military Office until Monday, according to a senior White House official who spoke on the condition of anonymity to comment on the internal process. At that point, the official said, Trump was cleared to reach out to the four families – both in letters that were mailed Tuesday and in personal phone calls to family members that day."

Politico (10/17, McCaskill, 3.6M) reported that Trump "has faced an onslaught of criticism – most notably from former Obama aides – since making the accusation against Obama on Monday afternoon in a Rose Garden news conference when asked about his silence regarding the death of four Green Berets related to an Oct. 4 ambush in Niger. 'The traditional way, if you look at President Obama and other presidents, most of them didn't make calls,'" Trump "alleged without evidence Monday. 'A lot of them didn't make calls. I like to call when it's appropriate, when I think I'm able to do it.'" The Hill (10/17, Greenwood, 1.68M) and the Daily Caller (10/17, Pfeiffer, 521K) also report on Trump's remarks from Tuesday and Monday.

Regarding his comment that past presidents did not call fallen soldiers' kin, Trump on Tuesday called the story "fake news," telling [Fox News](#) (10/17, 12.87M), "I don't know what Obama's policy was. I write letters and I also call." Trump touted the support he said he was receiving in the polls in spite of negative media coverage.

During a Tuesday appearance on [Fox and Friends](#) (10/17, 8:40 a.m. EDT, 2.04M), counselor to the President Kellyanne Conway defended Trump's comment that previous presidents have not called fallen soldiers' families, saying that he was "making the point that there's many different ways to reach out" to the kin, and "not everybody calls." Conway also said, "The President made very clear...what he meant and what he is saying," adding that Trump's "focus is always on the grieving, on the families, on the loss of life, and on protecting our soldiers."

Responding to Trump's comment about past presidents calling fallen soldiers' kin, Sen. Ed Markey (D-MA) told [CNN's Situation Room](#) (10/17, 5:25 p.m. EDT, 988K) that he was with Obama when the then-President was visiting families of soldiers who lost their lives in Benghazi.

Florida Democrat Criticizes Trump's "Insensitive" Remarks To Widow Of Slain Soldier. The [Miami Herald](#) (10/17, Cohen, 701K) reports, "Sgt. La David T. Johnson of Miami Gardens, the soldier and father who was killed in Niger, returned home Tuesday afternoon." He "was saluted with a ceremonial homecoming at Miami International Airport." The Herald adds that Trump "called Johnson's pregnant widow Tuesday afternoon." The President "told his widow, who was in a car heading to the airport with her family and US Rep. Frederica Wilson, D-Miami Gardens, that 'he knew what he signed up for...but when it happens it hurts anyway,' according to Wilson, who heard the call on speakerphone in the car." Wilson told the Herald, "I think it's so insensitive. It's crazy. ... You don't say that to someone who lost family, the father, the breadwinner. You can say, 'I'm so sorry for your loss. He's a hero.'"

WPost's Von Drehle Questions Trump's Patriotism. In his [Washington Post](#) (10/17, 10.38M) column, David Von Drehle says that Trump's "impulsive attack on his predecessors" relating to the calling of the families of slain soldiers "has raised again a question that has haunted me since his inaugural address. Is Trump patriotic?" Von Drehle adds, "Patriotism doesn't require us to praise what is not praiseworthy. Like any other American, Trump is free to criticize as he sees fit. But when an elected leader disparages, without cause, the good faith of other elected leaders, he is tearing the country down. ... I don't think we've ever been led by a person with such a low opinion of America."

TRUMP SAYS HE WAS "SURPRISED" BY THE "DISHONESTY IN THE MEDIA." [Politico](#) (10/17, Nelson, 3.6M) reported that during a Tuesday interview with radio host Chris Plante, President Trump said "that he was 'surprised' by what he perceived as the media's continued antipathy towards him after last year's election, characterizing CNN and NBC News 'a joke' and 'a total joke,' respectively." Said Trump, "Actually, dishonesty in the media is one of the things that surprised me the most. I thought after I won, the media would become much more stable and much more honest. They've gone crazy." Trump added, "CNN is a joke. NBC is a total joke. You watch what they report, it bears no relationship to what I'm doing. But the media is absolutely

dishonest and frankly, I've never seen anything quite like it."

In Project Veritas Video, New York Times Editor Rips Trump, Pence. The Washington Times (10/17, Richardson, 541K) reports, "A New York Times senior staff editor called President Trump an 'oblivious idiot' and Vice President Mike Pence 'horrible' and 'worse than Trump' in an undercover video released Tuesday by the watchdog group Project Veritas." The Times says that in the video, "London-based homepage editor Desiree Shoe" rips Trump and Pence "while acknowledging that 'our main stories are supposed to be objective. 'I feel like Trump is a just a sort of an idiot in a lot of ways, just an oblivious idiot,' she" says "in the hidden-camera footage apparently taken at a bar." Shoe added, "If you impeach him, then Pence becomes president, Mike Pence, who's f--ing horrible, I think maybe worse than Trump. I'm speaking off the record." The Times says that Shoe "has worked for the NYT since 2009."

Professor: New York Times' New Social Media Policy "Hide[s] Reporter Biases." The Washington Times (10/17, Richardson, 541K) reports that the New York Times' "new policy on social media may rid the paper of perceived bias, but critics say it leaves unchecked the actual bias permeating" its "reliably liberal pages." Said Cornell Law School professor William A. Jacobson, "I believe in transparency, and The New York Times' new social media guidelines achieve the opposite. The guidelines are designed to hide reporter biases that makes it harder for the public to judge the credibility of reporting. Particularly in an age where we are asked to accept anonymously sourced reporting on the Trump administration, the public should know more about the political biases of those asking us to trust them on sourcing." The New York Times' new "policy prohibits reporters from making social media posts that 'express partisan opinions, promote political views, endorse candidates, make offensive comments or do anything else that undercuts The Times' journalistic reputation.'"

TRUMP WARNS MCCAIN, "I FIGHT BACK AND IT WON'T BE PRETTY." The CBS Evening News (10/17, story 4, 2:40, Mason, 11.17M) reported that after Sen. John McCain "blast[ed] President Trump's ideas with words like 'half-baked' and 'unpatriotic.'" The President on Tuesday "warned McCain to 'be careful.' The Vietnam war hero shot back, 'I've faced tougher adversaries.'" The AP (10/17, Thomas) reports that in a radio interview, Trump said, "I'm being very, very nice but at some point I fight back and it won't be pretty." The New York Post (10/17, Fredericks, 4.31M) reports that the President also said that McCain's deciding vote against the recent Republican healthcare measure was a "shocker."

USA Today (10/17, Cummings, 8.62M) reports that McCain "did not mention the president by name" in his Monday speech, but Politico (10/17, Nelson, 3.6M) says that the remarks "were widely interpreted as a shot at Trump's political style, a mix of nationalism, populism and conservatism." The AP (10/17, Thomas) reports that McCain said, "To abandon the ideals we have advanced around the globe, to refuse the obligations of international leadership for the sake of some half-baked, spurious nationalism cooked up by people who would rather find scapegoats than solve problems, is as unpatriotic as an attachment to any other tired dogma of the past that Americans consigned to the ash heap of history." On Fox News' Fox & Friends (10/17, 8:38 a.m. EDT, 2.04M), Kellyanne Conway denied McCain's assertion that Trump engenders "half-baked, spurious nationalism." Conway said, "We hope we can rely on Sen. McCain's vote" on a number of issues. Fox News' Special Report (10/17, 2.32M) briefly reported on McCain's Monday night remark and Trump's response on Tuesday.

Biden: Trump's Behavior "Absolutely Bizarre." The AP (10/17) reports that former Vice President Joe Biden, who was presenting a medal to McCain at the National Constitution Center event on Monday, on Tuesday "called Trump's behavior 'absolutely bizarre.'" Biden said, "Violating the norms of personal conduct generates more anxiety and fear than any policy prescription that this president has enunciated. This breaking down of international and national norms is the glue that holds the liberal world order together, and holds together our system."

The Washington Times (10/17, Miller, 541K) reports that Biden and Ohio Gov. John Kasich were appearing together at a Delaware event to promote bipartisanship. The Washington Post (10/17, Kane, 10.38M) looks at the long relationship between Biden and McCain, who "have been on opposite sides of many crucial national security debates over the last 30 years," but who now find themselves to be "closely aligned...elder statesmen."

WPost Analysis: Trump Creates, Then Shoots Down Series Of "Political Villains." Michael Scherer writes in the Washington Post (10/17, 10.38M) that President Trump has a practice of "conjuring and then belittling a political villain with little more than taps on a phone. ... In just the past few weeks, Trump has started, without any clear provocation, fights with football players who kneel during the national anthem, departments stores that declare 'happy holidays' instead of 'Merry Christmas,' and late-night television hosts for their 'unfunny and repetitive material.'" He has also gone after "individual targets" including Senate Minority Leader Schumer, Sen. Bob Corker, Hillary Clinton, Kim Jong-un, ESPN's Jemele Hill, "and a shifting array of reporters, newspapers and networks he labels as the 'fake news.'" Scherer says that Trump has used the tactic "for years – defining himself against a negative space, as a tough truth teller who opposes others."

WHITE HOUSE URGES CORKER TO "GET OUT OF THE NAME-CALLING." Politico (10/17, McCaskill, 3.6M) reports that White House press secretary Sarah Sanders, in a radio interview with Hugh Hewitt, said she was open to speaking with Sen. Bob Corker. Sanders said, "Sadly, Sen. Corker hasn't called me, but if he'd like to visit, I'd be happy to talk to him and certainly see if we could get him back on board and do, frankly, what the people of Tennessee elected him to do. ... Hopefully, he'll get out of the name-calling and get back to work here pretty soon."

WHITE HOUSE DENIES TRUMP JOKED PENCE WANTED TO "HANG" GAYS. Politico (10/17, Nussbaum, 3.6M) reports that the White House is denying that President Trump has joked that Vice President Pence "wanted to 'hang' homosexuals as well as other details reported" in a New Yorker profile of Pence. In a statement, White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said, "From start to finish the article relied on fiction rather than facts. ... The suggestion that he would make such outrageous remarks is offensive and untrue." The New Yorker said it "stands by its reporting."

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBPOENAS PAGE, SEEKS INFORMATION FROM FLYNN'S SON. USA Today (10/17, Kelly, 8.62M) reports that the Senate Intelligence Committee "has issued a subpoena to compel testimony and documents from former Trump campaign adviser Carter Page," according to a congressional aide. Investigators "have raised questions about Page's

alleged ties to Russia, which were detailed in a controversial dossier by former British spy Christopher Steele." [Reuters](#) (10/17, Hosenball, Layne) reports that the panel has also asked Michael G. Flynn, the son of ex-National Security Adviser Michael Flynn, "to provide documents and testimony."

Mueller's Team Interviews Spicer. [Politico](#) (10/17, Karni, Dawsey, 3.6M) reports that special counsel Robert Mueller's team met Monday with former White House press secretary Sean Spicer "for an interview that lasted much of the day." According to people familiar with the meeting, Spicer was asked about President Trump's firing of FBI Director James Comey and Trump's meetings with Russians officials including Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov.

Mueller Interviewed Cybersecurity Researcher Tait. [Business Insider](#) (10/17, 3.83M) reports that Mueller himself has interviewed cybersecurity researcher Matt Tait, "who described being recruited to vet hacked Hillary Clinton emails last year by a GOP operative tied to" the Trump campaign team. The interview took place "several weeks ago."

Kushner Adds Harder To Legal Team. The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/17, Correll, 465K) reports that Jared Kushner has added attorney Charles Harder to his legal team. Harder "has represented Hulk Hogan and Melania Trump" and "previously represented Harvey Weinstein but discontinued representing him amid mounting sexual harassment and assault revelations."

Democrats Reportedly Impatient With Pace Of Russia Probes. [Bloomberg News](#) (10/17, Dennis, House, 4.52M) reports, "Some Democrats in Congress are growing impatient with how the GOP is handling" the Russia probes. Senate Judiciary Committee Democrats "say they want to see more urgency in that panel's efforts," while House Intelligence Committee ranking member Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA) "says the Trump administration is trying to pressure Congress into ending its investigations prematurely."

BuzzFeed Offers Some Information On Dossier, But Does Not Reveal Source. The [Daily Caller](#) (10/17, Ross, 521K) reports that BuzzFeed News has "provided a few new details about how it obtained the infamous Trump dossier," but it "is still refusing to identify its source" for the document. BuzzFeed reporter Ken Bensinger "revealed that he was granted access to the dossier in December after he became aware of 'intelligence reports alleging that there were connections between the Trump presidential campaign and the Russian government,' according to a declaration filed in federal court Monday in Miami."

FBI Uncovered Russian Bribery Plot Prior To US Approval Of 2010 Uranium Deal. [Fox News' Tucker Carlson Tonight](#) (10/17, 2.78M) reported "the FBI has uncovered evidence of a major Russian bribery effort just before the Obama Administration's approval of a deal back in 2010 that gave Russia control over large amounts of American uranium." [The Hill](#) (10/17, Solomon, Spann, 1.68M) reports that the FBI "had gathered substantial evidence that Russian nuclear industry officials were engaged in bribery, kickbacks, extortion and money laundering designed to grow Vladimir Putin's atomic energy business" inside the US.

Dan McLaughlin writes in the National Review (10/17, 892K) that this “could be a very big news story, if anyone is willing to follow up on it.” Newt Gingrich said on Fox News’ Hannity (10/17, 9:25 p.m. EDT, 4.05M) that this story indicates “levels of corruption and dishonesty on a scale that I can’t remember in American history.”

OBAMA UN AMBASSADOR SAYS UNMASKING REQUESTS WERE MADE IN HER NAME.

The Daily Caller (10/17, Ross, 521K) reports that Obama Administration UN Ambassador Samantha Power told the House Intelligence Committee last week that someone inside the Administration’s “intelligence apparatus made requests to unmask the identity of Americans named in intelligence reports” in her name. Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-SC) told Fox News, “She would say those requests to unmask may have been attributed to her, but they greatly exceed by an exponential factor the requests she actually made.”

TRUMP SAYS FED CHAIRMAN PICK COMING SOON, SOURCE SAYS EARLY NOVEMBER.

USA Today (10/17, Jackson, 8.62M) reports President Trump said Tuesday he will select the next Federal Reserve Board chairman “over the next fairly short period of time.” Addressing reporters at a joint news conference with Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, Trump also “all but confirmed” the reported list of five finalists: Former Fed governor Kevin Warsh, Stanford University economist John Taylor, current Fed Governor Jerome Powell, National Economic Council Director Gary Cohn, and current Chair Janet Yellen. He said, “I would say within those five you’ll probably get the answer.”

Reuters (10/17, Holland) reports Trump will likely announce his choice for next Fed chair before his trip to Asia in early November, according to a “source familiar with the situation.” The source “said announcing the choice by the time Trump leaves for Asia on Nov. 3 would give the Senate time for the confirmation process.”

WPost: Yellen Deserves A Second Term. In an editorial, the Washington Post (10/17, 10.38M) writes that President Trump should select Janet Yellen for a second term as Federal Reserve Chairman because of her experience with steadily raising interest rates and with the unwinding of the Fed’s asset purchasing program, her encouragement and defense of safeguards on financial institutions, and her relative flexibility compared with the other candidates. The Post concludes that her selection would signal the preservation of the Federal Reserve’s independence from politicization and “would send a reassuring message of continuity.”

DOW TOPS 23,000 FOR FIRST TIME. NBC Nightly News (10/17, story 3, 2:20, Holt, 16.61M) reported the Dow Jones topped 23,000 for the first time on Tuesday before closing just shy of the 23,000 mark. The Dow has grown 16 percent since January 1, and the market altogether has climbed 28 percent since the election of President Trump.

USA Today (10/17, Shell, 8.62M) reports that Wall Street observers say the Dow’s continued rise has been driven by five key factors: rebounding economies around the world, strong US

corporate earnings, low borrowing costs, anticipation of tax cuts, and large US companies' benefiting from a weak dollar and stronger foreign economies.

TRUMP CALLS ON AMERICANS TO SAY "MERRY CHRISTMAS" DURING HOLIDAYS. The Washington Times (10/17, Dinan, 541K) reports President Trump said Tuesday that Americans should be comfortable saying "Merry Christmas." Commenting on stores that don't use "Merry Christmas" in their displays, Trump said, "I want them to say Merry Christmas everybody, Happy New Year, Happy Holidays, but I want Merry Christmas."

TRUMP DROPS IN FORBES 400 RANKING. USA Today (10/17, McCoy, 8.62M) reports President Trump dropped in the annual Forbes magazine rankings of the wealthiest Americans after his fortune shrank by \$600 million, to \$3.1 billion – "dropping him from 156th place to 248th place in the 2017 Forbes 400 ranking, the magazine reported Tuesday." Trump now is tied with Snapchat creator Evan Spiegel in the magazine's 2017 ranking.

TRUMP DC JUDICIAL NOMINEE ADDRESSES JUDICIARY COMMITTEE. The Washington Post (10/17, Marimow, Sullivan, 10.38M) reports that Gregory G. Katsas – President Trump's judicial nominee for the US Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit and current deputy White House counsel – on Tuesday "told senators considering his nomination that he advised the Trump administration on the travel ban on residents of certain majority Muslim countries, ending protections for young undocumented immigrants and the president's voter fraud commission." During a two-hour hearing, Katsas also "sought to assure the Senate Judiciary Committee that he would recuse himself from any cases involving his work as a government lawyer." The Post observes that Tuesday's hearing comes as Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell "is intensifying efforts to install conservative jurists on the federal bench."

PRUITT SEEKS TO ASSURE SENATORS OVER BIOFUELS MANDATE. The Hill (10/17, Henry, Cama, 1.68M) reports EPA Administrator Pruitt "sought to reassure" Midwestern lawmakers on Tuesday that he supported the federal biofuels mandate. In a nearly hour-long meeting in Sen. Chuck Grassley's Senate office that included Sens. Joni Ernst (R-IA), Ben Sasse (R-NE), and Deb Fischer (R-NE), Pruitt "made a political case for the ethanol mandate." The meeting came amid concerns from lawmakers in both parties about proposed changes to the Renewable Fuel Standard.

SESSIONS CREATES WATCHDOG FOR ASSET FORFEITURE PROGRAM. The Washington Post (10/17, Horwitz, 10.38M) reports Attorney General Sessions is establishing a Justice Department watchdog to oversee the department's asset forfeiture program. In a memo Tuesday, Sessions "directed Deputy Attorney General Rod J. Rosenstein to hire a director to review all aspects of the department's policy and take action if problems arise." Rep. Darrell Issa, who criticized the department last summer when Sessions announced the asset forfeiture program, said Tuesday of the move, "It's nice to see at least some acknowledgment that civil forfeiture is in need of increased oversight, but the changes really don't go far enough and the core problem still remains."

ZINKE BOOSTER NOW EXPRESSES CONCERNS ABOUT HIS PUBLIC LAND POLICIES.

The Washington Post (10/17, Grandoni, 10.38M) reports that Backcountry Hunters & Anglers Executive Director Land Tawney backed fellow Montanan Ryan Zinke's nomination to lead the Interior Department, but is now raising concerns about Zinke's stance on public lands and his "approach to national monuments." Tawney "still has kind words for Zinke, calling him 'a proven leader.'" But "as to the question of whether he still regards him as an ally, Tawney split the difference." He said, "What we've always done is we've applauded [Zinke] for the things that we think he's doing that are beneficial to hunters and anglers, then we've held him accountable on the other end of that."

CHAO SILENT ON FEDERAL MONEY FOR MIAMI'S METRORAIL. The Miami Herald (10/17, Hanks, 701K) reports that Transportation Secretary Chao on Tuesday "deftly avoided" providing information about federal money for Miami's Metrorail during a press conference at Miami International Airport. Chao said, "Resources are an issue. It's a resource issue for all of us. ... From the whole country's point of view, the needs exceed the resources." Chao "didn't mention the issue" of money for expanding Metrorail but "did say the Trump administration may provide help to Miami-Dade beyond money."

FOX NEWS POLL: JONES, MOORE TIED AT 42% IN DEC. 12 SPECIAL ELECTION. On its website, Fox News (10/17, Blanton, 12.87M) reported that a Fox News poll of 801 Alabama voters, taken Oct. 14-16, shows ex-US Attorney Doug Jones (D) and ex-state Supreme Court Justice Roy Moore (R) tied at 42% each in the Dec. 12 special election for the former seat of now-US Attorney General Jeff Sessions. Fox News added "that among just the 53 percent of Alabama registered voters who are extremely or very interested in the race, Jones" leads Moore 46%-45%. Fox News said that President Trump carried "Alabama by 28 points in 2016, yet the Steve Bannon-backed Moore defeated the president's favored candidate, incumbent Luther Strange, in the GOP primary."

The Hill (10/17, Thomsen, 1.68M) reported that the survey "also found that 42 percent of Moore's supporters had some doubts about the candidate, while 48 percent said they strongly support him in the race. Republicans were also less likely to support their nominee than Democrats were to support Jones, with 77 percent of GOP voters saying they'd back Moore. Eight-five percent of Democrats said the same for Jones. Twenty-eight percent of Jones' backers said they had some reservations about him. But 21 percent of his supporters said they were voting against Moore rather than for Jones."

Rand Paul Backs Moore. The Hill (10/17, Shelbourne, 1.68M) reported that Sen. Rand Paul on Tuesday backed Moore's bid, saying in a statement, "Judge Roy Moore has spent a lifetime defending and standing up for the Constitution while fighting for the people of Alabama. We need more people in Washington, D.C. that will stand on principle and defend the Constitution." Writing for the Washington Examiner (10/17, Bedard, 465K), Paul Bedard described Paul's endorsement of Moore as "a huge show of support." Bedard added that Paul's backing "puts a stamp of approval on Moore's anti-Washington campaign which he rode to victory recently in a primary against Sen. Luther Strange, appointed earlier this year to replace former Sen. Jeff Sessions when he became the Attorney General."

THREE POLLS SHOW VIRGINIA GOVERNOR'S RACE "WITHIN THE MARGIN OF ERROR."

Three weeks before next month's election to succeed term-limited Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D), Politico (10/17, Shepard, 3.6M) reported that a trio of "new public polls show" the battle between ex-RNC chief Ed Gillespie and Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam (D) "within the margin of error." A Monmouth University survey of 408 Virginia likely voters, taken Oct. 12-16, shows Gillespie leading Northam 48%-47%, with Libertarian Cliff Hyra at 3% and 3% undecided. Northam led 49%-44% in last month's poll. Meanwhile, a Christopher Newport University survey of 642 Virginia likely voters, taken Oct. 9-13, shows Northam leading Gillespie 48%-44%, with Hyra at 3% and 5% undecided. Northam led 49%-42% in last week's poll. And a Roanoke College poll of 607 Virginia likely voters, taken Oct. 8-13, shows Northam leading Gillespie 50%-44%, with Hyra at 2% and 4% undecided. Northam led 47%-43% in last month's poll. The Hill (10/17, Hagen, 1.68M) reported that the Monmouth survey "is the first public poll that shows Gillespie leading." The Washington Free Beacon (10/17, Crookston, 158K) also reports on the results of three polls released on Tuesday.

Democrat Northam Has Over Twice As Much Cash On Hand Than Gillespie. The AP (10/17, Suderman) reports that Northam holds "a hefty cash advantage over" Gillespie ahead of next month's election. Northam collected over "\$7 million in September and had about \$5.7 million in the bank at the end of the month." Gillespie, meanwhile, raised "\$4.4 million, with \$2.5 million cash on hand for the same period." Gillespie "enjoyed a cash advantage over Northam after the June primaries but has struggled to match the Democrat's fundraising prowess in recent months." The Washington Post (10/17, Nirappil, 10.38M) reports, "Republicans attributed the fundraising lag to a variety of reasons, including donors who were tuned out after the presidential contest and an unfavorable political climate for the GOP in Virginia."

TWO POLLS SHOW DEMOCRAT MURPHY UP DOUBLE DIGITS IN NEW JERSEY

GOVERNOR'S RACE. NJ News (10/17, Brodesser-Akner, 1.21M) reported that a Farleigh Dickinson University PublicMind poll of 658 New Jersey likely voters, taken Oct. 11-15, shows ex-Goldman Sachs executive Phil Murphy (D) leading Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno (R-NJ) 47%-32% in next month's election to succeed term-limited Gov. Chris Christie (R-NJ). On its website, Fox News (10/17, Balara, 12.87M) reported that a Fox News poll of 679 New Jersey likely voters, taken Oct. 14-16, shows Murphy leading Guadagno 47%-33%.

Obama Joining Parade Of Democrats Who've Stumped For Murphy. The New York Times (10/17, Corasaniti, Burns, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports, "An Obama administration reunion tour is unfolding in New Jersey, as a cavalcade of Democratic luminaries has paraded into the state in recent days, including former Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr., former Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez and former Secretary of State John Kerry, urging voters to" back Murphy's bid. The Times adds that President Obama is slated to stump with Murphy "on Thursday at a rally in Newark, making his first public foray on the campaign trail in support of a Democratic candidate since leaving office. And Hillary Clinton will be a guest of honor at a closed-door fund-raiser for Mr. Murphy on Sunday in Harrison, N.J., her first campaign event since last year's election." Murphy served as ambassador to Germany in the Obama Administration.

Democrats Blast Guadagno Over "Bridgegate." The AP (10/17) reports that the Murphy camp on Tuesday received "a boost from the mayor whose town was gridlocked in the so-called Bridgegate scandal. Democratic Mayor of Fort Lee Mark Sokolich joined fellow Democrats Rep. Bill Pascrell, state Sen. Loretta Weinberg and Hoboken Mayor Dawn Zimmer Tuesday to

attack...Guadagno" on "the same day Murphy unveiled a new 30-second TV spot that says Christie and Guadagno's biggest triumph 'was a traffic jam.' Two former allies of Christie's were convicted in federal court in the 2013 political payback scheme that saw local access lanes to the George Washington Bridge closed."

PENCE'S FUNDRAISER BENEFITING COLLINS DRAWS "ABOUT 80" PROTESTERS. The Buffalo (NY) News (10/17, O'Brien, 362K) reports, "About 80 people protested outside a suburban Buffalo restaurant Tuesday as Vice President Pence arrived to raise" cash for Rep. Chris Collins (R-NY), "one of the Trump administration's staunchest backers in Congress." The News adds that Collins, "with Pence's help, expects to raise \$400,000 at [the] event."

CALIFORNIA HOUSE REPUBLICANS GET LARGE FINANCIAL BOOST FROM PAC'S FUNDRAISER WITH PENCE. The Los Angeles Times (10/17, Mai-Duc, 4.49M) reports, "California Republican House members have received more than \$1 million from a committee that recently benefited from a fundraiser with Vice President Pence. California Victory 2018 – a joint fundraising committee that helps" PACs "belonging to Pence and Rep. Kevin McCarthy as well as congressional campaign accounts of McCarthy and seven California Republicans – received proceeds from a string of Pence fundraisers across the state last week."

ENDORING FLAKE PRIMARY FOE WARD, BANNON RIPS MCCONNELL, SENATE REPUBLICANS. The AP (10/17, Beaumont, Christie) reports that ex-White House chief strategist Steve Bannon on Tuesday "doubled down on his criticism of the GOP establishment" during a fundraising event benefiting ex-state Sen. Kelli Ward (R-AZ), who is mounting a 2018 primary challenge to Sen. Jeff Flake (R-AZ). Appearing in Scottsdale, Bannon "heaped disdain on Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and other incumbent Republicans, saying they failed President Donald Trump by not backing his agenda and are openly critical of their own president." Said Bannon, who was joined at Tuesday's event by conservative talk show host Laura Ingraham, "If you saw how they try to rip him apart every day, how they are trying to destroy him every day. And yes, I'm talking about Mitch McConnell and the Senate Republicans."

The Arizona Republic (10/17, Nowicki, 968K) reports that Bannon's appearance "was the biggest indicator to date that the allies of...Trump are settling on Ward as their preferred challenger to Flake." The Republic adds that Bannon blasted McConnell, "and vowed that the Republican elite are destined to 'reap the whirlwind' and 'that whirlwind is Kelli Ward.'" The "remarks were another salvo in the 'war' Bannon has declared on the GOP establishment. 'It's an open revolt, and it should be,' Bannon said before introducing Ward at her campaign's formal kickoff event."

Politico Analysis: Some Bannon Candidates Also Backed By GOP Establishment. Politico (10/17, Karni, 3.6M) reports that Steve Bannon recently backed state Auditor Matt Rosendale's (R) Montana Senate bid "as part of his war on the GOP establishment." However, Bannon's "interest in Rosendale – as well as many of the other candidates" he's backing – "has some Washington GOP power brokers confused by his definition of 'anti-establishment.' For months, the National Republican Senatorial Committee has been media training Rosendale," who's "also a client of the consulting firm On Message, Inc., one of the most 'establishment' consulting firms in Washington." Politico added, "The overlap between the 'establishment-backed' candidates and

those Bannon is elevating in hopes of taking down the establishment has some accusing him of being more interested in a one-man show than his 'season of war against a GOP establishment.'"

Nicholson Hails "Huge Endorsement" By Bannon In GOP Primary. In a report on Sen. Tammy Baldwin's (D-WI) 2018 reelection race, the AP (10/17, Bauer) focuses on the GOP primary, saying that businessman Kevin Nicholson (R) has "won the backing of former presidential strategist Steve Bannon in Wisconsin's US Senate race, a surprise move that sent shockwaves Tuesday through the" Republican contest. Nicholson is battling state Sen. Leah Vukmir (R-WI) in the GOP primary. The AP says, "The endorsement by a political action committee backed by Bannon," the Great America PAC, "comes after both Nicholson and Vukmir met separately in private with Bannon." Nicholson "tweeted on Tuesday that he was 'humbled by this huge endorsement' by Bannon."

HILL ANALYSIS: TRUMP'S SUPPORT GIVES BARLETTA EDGE IN CROWDED PRIMARY. In a report on Sen. Bob Casey's (D-PA) 2018 reelection race, The Hill (10/17, Kamisar, Hagen, 1.68M) said that Rep. Lou Barletta (R-PA) "is seen as the leading GOP candidate to take on" the incumbent Democrat, "with his chances boosted further after a de facto endorsement from President Trump last week. During a Harrisburg, Pa., rally last Wednesday, Trump lauded" Barletta "as a 'great guy' who will 'win big,'" and "then repeated the praise during an interview with Fox News host Sean Hannity. Trump's praise will give Barletta, an early Trump endorser during the presidential race and a key campaign surrogate, a major bump in a crowded primary field that also includes wealthy real estate developer Jeff Bartos."

EIGHT DEMOCRATS ON CNN'S LIST OF "10 SENATE SEATS MOST LIKELY TO SWITCH PARTIES" IN 2018. On its website, CNN (10/17, Bradner, 33.59M) offered its list of "the 10 Senate seats most likely to switch parties in the November 2018 midterms." Topping the list is the seat of Sen. Dean Heller (R-NV), followed by those of Sens. Claire McCaskill (D-MO); Jeff Flake (R-AZ); Joe Donnelly (D-IN); Joe Manchin (D-WV); Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND); Sherrod Brown (D-OH); Jon Tester (D-MT); Tammy Baldwin (D-WI); and Bill Nelson (D-FL).

HAWLEY SPOKESMAN SIDESTEPS QUESTION ON WHETHER CANDIDATE WOULD BACK MCCONNELL. McClatchy (10/17, Wise, 67K) reports that state Attorney Gen. Josh Hawley (R-MO), "Republicans' top recruit to" take on Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-MO) in next year's election, "won't commit to voting for Mitch McConnell as Senate Republican leader if elected in 2018." Asked if the GOP hopeful would back McConnell, Hawley campaign spokesman Scott Paradise "deflected the question," saying in an email, "The Senate is broken and failing the people of Missouri. Josh is running because he is not willing to tolerate the failure of the D.C. establishment any longer. He won't tolerate Claire McCaskill's failure. And he won't tolerate Republican failure, either."

McCaskill Acknowledges "Sloppy" Mistake In Claiming She Was Out When Controversial Bill Passed. The Springfield (MO) News-Leader (10/17, Shesgreen, 61K) reports that McCaskill on Tuesday "said she was wrong when she asserted she'd been undergoing breast cancer treatment on March 17, 2016 – the day the Senate passed legislation undermining the Drug Enforcement Agency's ability to stop suspicious shipments of opioids to what they feared were pill-mills and illicit pharmacies." The bill "dramatically undercut the DEA's efforts to staunch the

flow of millions of opioid pills into communities across the country, according to an investigation by the Washington Post and '60 Minutes,' published on Sunday." Speaking on "Monday with CNN, McCaskill said she didn't go along with the bill and was out for breast cancer treatment when it passed." On Tuesday, however, McCaskill "said her statements on Monday were a 'sloppy embarrassing mistake.'"

SLF UNVEILS MICROSITE TARGETING DEMOCRAT DONNELLY ON OUTSOURCING. The Hill (10/17, Kamisar, 1.68M) reported that the Senate Leadership Fund (SLF), a super PAC aligned with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, on Tuesday was to unveil "a new microsite" hitting Sen. Joe Donnelly (D-IN) "over revelations from this summer that he earned profit from a family company that outsourced jobs to Mexico. The new website is called 'MexicoJoe.com,' a nod to the pejorative nickname that Republicans have bestowed upon Donnelly since the news broke over the summer. It will be a central hub for the SLF's attacks on Donnelly, hosting content including video and news clippings." Donnelly faces reelection next year.

NELSON RAISES NEARLY \$1.8M IN Q3, HAS \$6.3M BANKED FOR REELECTION RACE. The Tampa Bay (FL) Times (10/17, Leary, 877K) reports that Sen. Bill Nelson (D-FL), who faces reelection next year, "raised \$1.75 million in the third quarter of 2017 and now has \$6.3 million cash-on-hand. The haul comes as Nelson suspended his campaign for several weeks due to the hurricanes, an aide said." Florida Gov. Rick Scott (R), who is term-limited in 2018, is expected to challenge Nelson in next year's election.

TESTIMONY CONTINUES IN MENENDEZ'S FEDERAL CORRUPTION TRIAL. In continuing coverage of the federal corruption trial of Sen. Bob Menendez (D) and his longtime friend and donor, eye doctor Salomon Melgen, Bloomberg News (10/17, Weinberg, Voreacos, 4.52M) reports that Menendez's attorneys on Tuesday "sought to show jurors that the New Jersey Democrat was motivated by a desire to improve public policy and not by corrupt intent when he intervened in a Medicare billing dispute at the heart of" the prosecution's case. Testifying for the defense, "Washington lobbyist Alan Reider" discussed "how he helped Melgen contest accusations that he overbilled for Lucentis, a macular degeneration drug that costs doctors \$2,000. Reider, a health care lawyer, said he argued to Menendez that Medicare policy that prevented multiple doses of Lucentis from a single bottle was confusing and contradictory." Reider "said his briefing with Menendez in 2012 focused on the multidosing policy rather than Melgen's dispute with the government."

Politico (10/17, Friedman, 3.6M) reported that Reider "said he learned of at least six other doctors who were concerned about 'multi-dosing,' even though prosecutors have argued only Melgen had an interest in changing the government's policy on the issue." Reider, "who testified that he had briefly registered as a lobbyist when representing Melgen" as an attorney, "met with Menendez, who later raised the multi-dosing issue with everyone from bureaucrats at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to then-Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius. Prosecutors say those meetings were favors Menendez did for Melgen...in exchange for private jet flights, vacations and hundreds of thousands of dollars in campaign contributions."

The New York Times (10/17, Wang, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that testifying on Tuesday, "Melgen's wife, Flor Melgen, was alternately subdued and defiant in answering questions about the relationship between her husband and Mr. Menendez." The Times adds that at one point, "after Kirk Ogrosky, a lawyer for Dr. Melgen, asked whether Ms. Melgen had expected to receive anything in return for her donations to Mr. Menendez's campaigns, she replied no. But she then began to explain in Spanish, through an interpreter, that 'every citizen who lives in this country' might expect a return from a candidate who could 'do good for the community.'"

The AP (10/17, Porter) reports that Ms. Melgen "recalled how then-Republican Florida Gov. Charlie Crist showed up at her Palm Beach County home unannounced in October 2010, when he was running for Senate as an independent. Crist apparently was hoping Menendez, at the time the chair of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, was there that night, she testified. He wasn't, but Crist wound up dining and staying overnight. He reimbursed the Melgens \$100 for the dinner. 'So at least one politician knows how to pay your husband back,' Justice Department attorney Monique Abrishami said. Defense attorneys immediately objected, and US District Judge William Walls cautioned jurors to disregard attorneys' 'throwaway questions.'"

NJ News (10/17, Moriarty, Spoto, 1.21M) reports, "Defense attorneys raised the subject of [Crist's reimbursement] to try to address the issue of one of the flights prosecutors allege Menendez took on Melgen's dime as part of a bribe. The defense has argued Menendez should not have been charged in that instance because, they say, that Oct. 9 to 11, 2010, trip to Florida was campaign-related and should have been reimbursed by the DSCC."

Poll: 73% Of New Jersey Voters Say Menendez Should Resign Immediately, If Convicted. Meanwhile, Fox News (10/17, Balara, 12.87M) reported on its website that in a Fox News poll of 679 New Jersey likely voters, taken Oct. 14-16, 63% of those surveyed said that Menendez "should resign immediately," if convicted of the corruption charges, while 19% said "he should wait until the next governor is in office."

Pence: If Convicted, It Would Be "Inappropriate And Wrong" For Menendez To Remain In Senate. The Washington Times (10/17, Persons, 541K) reports that during a Tuesday interview with conservative radio host Hugh Hewitt, Vice President Pence said that having Menendez continue to serve in the Senate "would be 'inappropriate' if he's convicted in his federal corruption case." Said Pence, "I think that'll be a decision for members of the Senate. But having a convicted felon in the United States Senate, I think, would be altogether inappropriate and wrong."

NEW WILDFIRES EMERGE IN SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS. ABC World News Tonight (10/17, story 5, 1:55, Muir, 14.63M) reported that "as firefighters make progress on the devastating wildfires" in California, new fires emerged in the Santa Cruz Mountains on Tuesday night, leaving five firefighters injured. Sutter Santa Rosa Regional Hospital (SSRRH) evacuated all 77 patients. SSRRH Chief Nursing Executive Robin Allen said, "We believe over 30 physicians at this facility lost their homes, as well as over 40 staff members."

Sonoma Sheriff Denies Reports Linking Wildfires To Arson-Related Arrest. The Redding (CA) Record-Searchlight (10/17, Sandhu, Longoria, 59K) reports that on Tuesday, Breitbart News and InfoWars “attempted to link the Sunday arrest of” Latino man Jesus Fabian Gonzalez “on suspicion of arson in Sonoma to the massive, deadly cluster of wildfires burning in California’s wine country,” but the outlets “offered no evidence to link the man’s arrest to the fires and their accounts of the man’s arrest were disputed the same day by Sonoma County Sheriff Rob Giordano.” Giordano said in a news conference, “There’s a story out there he’s the arsonist for these fires. That is not the case. There is no indication he is related to these fires at all.”

WEINSTEIN RESIGNS FROM HIS COMPANY; AMAZON EXEC STEPS DOWN. NBC Nightly News (10/17, story 7, 2:10, Holt, 16.61M) reported Harvey Weinstein on Tuesday officially resigned from the board of his company as more than 50 women accuse him of sexual harassment or assault. The head of Amazon Studios also resigned Tuesday amid sexual harassment allegations, and executive producer Amanda Segel now is accusing Weinstein’s brother, Bob Weinstein, of harassing her. The CBS Evening News (10/17, story 9, 0:25, Mason, 11.17M) reported that Spike TV has said it is investigating Segel’s claims. A spokesman for Bob Weinstein has “denied the charges.”

ABC World News Tonight (10/17, story 4, 2:15, Muir, 14.63M) reported that “other Hollywood A-listers are coming forward with their own experiences” of harassment and assault, with actress Reese Witherspoon claiming she was abused by a “Hollywood director” and Jennifer Lawrence making her own claims.

WOMEN DENOUNCE HARASSMENT IN CALIFORNIA’S STATE LEGISLATURE. The New York Times (10/17, Nagourney, Medina, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that more than 140 women – “including legislators, senior legislative aides and lobbyists” – have drafted a letter denouncing “what they describe as pervasive sexual misconduct by powerful men” in California’s state legislature. Women “complained of groping, lewd comments and suggestions of trading sexual favors for legislation while doing business in Sacramento.” The letter “comes as the scandal involving Mr. Weinstein had set off a wave of investigations, recriminations and accusations across the nation, including in state capitals in Rhode Island and South Dakota.”

NYTIMES A1: SECRETIVE “SELF-HELP” GROUP FOR WOMEN REQUIRES MEMBERS TO BE BRANDED. In a front-page story, the New York Times (10/17, A1, Meier, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports on the inner workings of a secretive “self-help” organization, called Nxivm, where women, in order to gain admission, “were required to give their recruiter...naked photographs or other compromising material” to ensure their silence about the group and then were “branded” with a cauterizing device. Since the late 1990s, “an estimated 16,000 people have enrolled in courses offered by Nxivm (pronounced Nex-e-um), which it says are designed to bring about greater self-fulfillment by eliminating psychological and emotional barriers.” With recent revelations of the “secret sisterhood and branding,” scores of members are leaving the organization, and interviews with a dozen of them “portray a group spinning more deeply into disturbing practices.”

TRUMP ACCUSER DESCRIBES EARLIER HARASSMENT EXPERIENCE. In a USA Today (10/17, 8.62M) op-ed, journalist Natasha Stoyanoff – who wrote last year in People about being

harassed by Donald Trump during a 2005 interview – describes her experience being sexually harassed by an unnamed actor 30 years ago. Stoyanoff writes that women are beginning to open up about their experiences of harassment and assault. Women “are not afraid anymore, and there is no room in this world for men of this ilk.”

PENCE SAYS WALKING OUT OF COLTS GAME WAS “RIGHT THING TO DO.” [WXIN-TV](#)

Indianapolis (10/17, 178K) reports online that Vice President Pence said Tuesday that his decision to walk out from an Indianapolis Colts game after players knelt during the national anthem was the right choice. In a radio interview with WIBC-FM's Tony Katz, Pence said, “You know we had had plans for a long time to attend that game. Karen and I were looking very much forward to it, but frankly when we saw that so many players took a knee on the sideline we thought it was the right thing to do to leave.” Pence did say he and President Trump had discussed the situation before he came to Indianapolis, and he added that while “everybody is entitled to their opinion...the president and I believe it's not too much to ask for all players to respect our soldiers, respect our flag, respect our national anthem, and that's why we left.”

In addition to providing video of Pence's interview with Tony Katz, [WIBC-FM Indianapolis](#) (10/17, 7K) reports online that Pence also discussed the Administration's domestic and foreign policy accomplishments and the importance of tax reform. Pence said, “And before the end of this year we're going to cut taxes for working-class families and small businesses all across America.”

NFL OWNERS, PLAYERS MEET TO DISCUSS ANTHEM PROTESTS. [NBC Nightly News](#)

(10/17, story 13, 0:20, Holt, 16.61M) reported that NFL team owners and players met on Tuesday in New York to discuss league protocol on kneeling during the national anthem. While the two sides “called the meeting productive,” there was no agreement reached on the anthem protests. During the meeting, protests “erupted” outside.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/17, lead story, 2:25, Muir, 14.63M) reported NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell announced Tuesday evening that owners did not ask the players to stand for the national anthem. Players at the meeting said progress was made on bringing attention to the reasons that some were kneeling. Players and owners “are expected to get together to discuss” the kneeling issue again “within the next couple of weeks.”

GOOGLE SERVES “FAKE NEWS” ADS ON FACT-CHECKING SITES, NYTIMES FINDS. [A](#)

[New York Times](#) (10/17, Wakabayashi, Qiu, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) investigation found that enticing fake “headlines served as bait to draw readers to fraudulent sites that masqueraded as mainstream news sites, such as People and Vogue.” The Times found that “fake publishers used Google's AdWords system to place the advertisements on websites that fit their broad parameters,” including, ironically, “PolitiFact and Snopes, fact-checking sites created precisely to dispel such falsehoods.” The article highlights opinion that this investigation's finding underscores the challenges of avoiding so-called “fake news.”

NATIONAL ARCHIVES WARNED ADMINISTRATION TO PRESERVE DOCUMENTS. [Politico](#)

(10/17, Dawsey, Bender, 3.6M) cites sources and documents as indicating “National Archives

officials have periodically warned White House lawyers that the Trump administration needs to follow document preservation laws.” National Archives officials reportedly “told the White House counsel’s office they were concerned that wasn’t happening, particularly early in the administration.” In addition, the nonpartisan watchdog group Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics “is suing the Trump administration over its adherence to the record law, citing the use by White House officials of encrypted smartphone apps to communicate, such as Confide and Signal, which are designed to delete data.”

BIPARTISAN GROUP TO URGE TRUMP TO ALTER POLICING POLICIES. The New York Times (10/17, Haberman, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that a “broad coalition” of law enforcement officials and activists “is expected to urge President Trump on Wednesday to adjust policies on policing and criminality, the first time such a group has spoken out against the Trump administration.” According to the Times, “some of the nation’s most prominent prosecutors, police chiefs and criminal justice overhaul advocates,” including Sen. Thom Tillis (R-NC) and “representatives from the conservative Koch brothers network,” will meet in Washington, DC for the National Law Enforcement Summit. Former Attorney General Eric Holder and Sally Q. Yates, “the acting attorney general whom Mr. Trump abruptly fired in the first few days of his presidency, will speak.” The presenters “are expected to pose the challenge to Mr. Trump, who ran in 2016 as a ‘law and order’ candidate but whose attorney general’s policies – as well as Mr. Trump’s own messaging – have come under increasing criticism from local law enforcement officials.”

OPEN SOCIETY DISCLOSES \$18 BILLION IN DONATIONS FROM GEORGES SOROS. On its front page, the Wall Street Journal (10/17, A1, Chung, Das, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports that Open Society Foundations said Tuesday that in recent years, George Soros has moved about \$18 billion of his money into Open Society. Soros reportedly has no plans to trade the billions now belonging to Open Society, as his family office manages the endowment. The article outlines causes supported by Open Society, including immigration reform, US criminal justice reform, mentoring programs for black and Latino young men, and indirectly, the Black Lives Matter movement.

The New York Times (10/17, Gelles, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that this makes Open Society “the second largest foundation in the United States by assets, according to the National Philanthropic Trust.” The Times mentions that Soros had wrongly bet against the stock market after Trump was elected.

DUCKWORTH: CONGRESS SEEKING TO REMOVE PROTECTIONS FOR DISABLED. In a Washington Post (10/17, 10.38M) op-ed, Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) writes that Congress – led by “special interests” in the hospitality and retail industries – are working to undermine the Americans with Disabilities Act by offering legislation that seeks “to shift the burden of ADA compliance away from business owners and onto individuals with disabilities.” She argues that if Congress passes the “misguided” ADA Education and Reform Act, “it would send a disgraceful message to Americans with disabilities that their civil rights are not worthy of strong enforcement.”

WSJOURNAL DECRIES COURT RULING ABSOLVING PROSECUTORS FOR USING FALSE INFORMATION. The Wall Street Journal (10/17, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) editorializes about Tuesday’s ruling by the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals that absolved prosecutors for the use

of false information in the prosecution of hedge fund founder David Ganek. Ganek had sued the prosecutors, seeking damages after the prosecution had put his hedge fund out of business. The appeals court ruled that the prosecutors were immune from liability. The Journal calls this another example of abusive behavior by prosecutors, and it urges the Justice Department to investigate the incident and to discipline the prosecutors.

WSJOURNAL APPLAUDS GOV. BROWN'S VETO OF CAMPUS SEXUAL ASSAULT BILL.

The Wall Street Journal (10/17, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) editorial board praises California Governor Jerry Brown's (D) Sunday veto of a bill that would have codified the Obama Administration's "Dear Colleague" guidance, which said universities would lose federal funds if they did not create courts to litigate Title IX campus sexual assault claims. The Journal urges politicians to stay focused on their principles in spite of desire to buck the Trump Administration.

WPOST OFFERS FAREWELL TO FORMER COMMUNICATIONS VICE PRESIDENT. In an editorial, the Washington Post (10/17, 10.38M) writes offers a farewell message for The Post's former vice president of communications, Vincent E. Reed, who died Tuesday at the age of 89. The Post says Reed "leaves a rich legacy" in the lives of the students who benefited from the school he created – Benjamin Banneker Academic High School – and the educators "helped by the support and guidance he provided from his position at The Post."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. "Mr Trump Outdoes Himself In Picking A Conflicted Regulator." A New York Times (10/17, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) editorial says President Trump has "made a habit of filling important jobs with people dedicated to undermining the laws they're supposed to administer while pampering the industries they're supposed to regulate," and "yet no nomination has been as brazen, as dangerous to public health and as deserving of Senate rejection as that of Michael Dourson to run the EPA office in charge of reviewing chemicals used in agriculture, industry and household products." Dourson's nomination is "enthusiastically endorsed by the chemical industry," but "horrifies environmental groups, public health advocates, firefighters and scientists." The Times says it "would take just a few Republicans to block the nomination," and urges senators to "think hard about the impact their votes could have on the health of Americans for years to come."

WASHINGTON POST. "Janet Yellen Deserves A Second Term As Fed Chair." In an editorial, the Washington Post (10/17, 10.38M) writes that President Trump should select Janet Yellen for a second term as Federal Reserve Chairman because of her experience with steadily raising interest rates and with the unwinding of the Fed's asset purchasing program, her encouragement and defense of safeguards on financial institutions, and her relative flexibility compared with the other candidates. The Post concludes that her selection would signal the preservation of the Federal Reserve's independence from politicization and "would send a reassuring message of continuity."

“The Hope For Change In Venezuela Suffers A Crushing Blow.” A Washington Post (10/17, 10.38M) editorial says “hopes that Venezuela could emerge from its catastrophic political and economic collapse by democratic means suffered a crushing and perhaps terminal blow on Sunday” when the government of Nicolás Maduro staged elections for provincial governors. Polls showed the opposition, “which reluctantly agreed to participate, would win up to two-thirds of the races,” and yet the results “announced by pro-regime election authorities were nearly the opposite.” The Post argues that Sunday’s result suggests that a free and fair democratic election in Venezuela “is no longer possible.”

“Saying Farewell To A Local Icon Of National Renown.” In an editorial, the Washington Post (10/17, 10.38M) writes offers a farewell message for The Post’s former vice president of communications, Vincent E. Reed, who died Tuesday at the age of 89. The Post says Reed “leaves a rich legacy” in the lives of the students who benefited from the school he created – Benjamin Banneker Academic High School – and the educators “helped by the support and guidance he provided from his position at The Post.”

WALL STREET JOURNAL. *“The Realtors Take A Tax Hostage.”* In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (10/17, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) writes that The National Association of Realtors’ attack on GOP tax legislation is based upon their desire to keep middle-class tax rates high to preserve their mortgage interest deduction subsidy. The Journal concludes that Republicans should stand firm against the housing lobby’s efforts against the GOP plan.

“Jerry Brown’s Title IX Veto.” The Wall Street Journal (10/17, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) editorial board praises California Governor Jerry Brown’s (D) Sunday veto of a bill that would have codified the Obama Administration’s “Dear Colleague” guidance, which said universities would lose federal funds if they did not create courts to litigate Title IX campus sexual assault claims. The Journal urges politicians to stay focused on their principles in spite of desire to buck the Trump Administration.

“Prosecutorial Impunity.” The Wall Street Journal (10/17, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) editorializes about Tuesday’s ruling by the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals that absolved prosecutors for the use of false information in the prosecution of hedge fund founder David Ganek. Ganek had sued the prosecutors, seeking damages after the prosecution had put his hedge fund out of business. The appeals court ruled that the prosecutors were immune from liability. The Journal calls this another example of abusive behavior by prosecutors, and it urges the Justice Department to investigate the incident and to discipline the prosecutors.

The Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY’S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:

[Senators Reach Deal To Shore Up Health Markets](#)

[Soros Transfers \\$18 Billion To Foundation, Creating Instant Giant](#)

[US-Backed Forces Say They Have Taken Last Islamic State Urban Stronghold](#)

[The Other Brother: Bob Weinstein Was An Abusive Boss](#)

New York Times:

[2 Senators Strike Deal On Health Subsidies That Trump Cut Off](#)

[Raqqa, ISIS 'Capital,' Is Captured, US-Backed Forces Say](#)

[As Party Gathers, Xi Jinping Displays A Firm Grip On Power](#)

[Inside A Secretive Group Where Women Are Branded](#)

[Navy SEALs Were Ready If Pakistan Failed To Free Family Held As Hostages](#)

[Women Denounce Harassment In California's Capital](#)

Washington Post:

[Latest Healthcare Effort Quickly Stalls](#)

[US-Backed Force Says Raqqa Free Of ISIS](#)

[Despite Decision Against Uber, London's Rivalry Between Traditional, Modern Transit Continues](#)

[Drug Czar Pick Bows Out Amid Criticism Of Law](#)

[Judge Largely Halts Latest Version Of Travel Ban](#)

Financial Times:

[US-Backed Forces Claim Victory Over ISIS In Raqqa As Jihadis Flee](#)

[Airbus Challenges Boeing With Vow To Create US Jobs](#)

[Wall St Banks Boosted By Lending To Rich Clients](#)

Washington Times:

[Trump Supports Bipartisan Short-Term Fix To Stabilize Obamacare](#)

[Judge Blocks Trump's Travel Ban For Third Time](#)

Islamic State's 'Caliphate' Dissolves, But Ideology, Operations Spread Around World

New York Times' Social Media Policy Only Hides Political Bias, Doesn't Eliminate It

Biden And Kasich Claim Political Center, Turn Bipartisan Talk Against Trump

After Year In Coffin, Thai King's Body Prepared For Royal Cremation

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: NFL Owners Meeting; Bipartisan Healthcare Plan; White House-Fallen Soldiers Call; Weinstein Sexual Harassment Scandal; California Wildfires; Travel Restriction Blocked; Syria-Raqqa Assault; Ohio-Police Violence; Cold Medicine Murder; Texas Air Balloon Crash Investigation; Ford Explorers-Call For Recall; Aspiring Kid.

CBS: Opioid Epidemic-Marino Nomination Withdrawn; Opioid Epidemic-Hard Hit Area; Texas Air Balloon Crash Investigation; McCain, Biden-Trump Criticisms; White House-Fallen Soldiers Call; Syria-Raqqa Assault; Ford Explorers-Call For Recall; Travel Restriction Blocked; Weinstein Sexual Harassment Scandal; Young Political Candidates.

NBC: White House-Fallen Soldiers Call; Bipartisan Healthcare Plan; Wall Street Records; Opioid Epidemic-Marino Nomination Withdrawn; Opioid Epidemic-Chinese Imports; Travel Restriction Blocked; Weinstein Sexual Harassment Scandal; United Overbooking Investigation; Texas Air Balloon Crash Investigation; Syria-Raqqa Assault; Ford Explorers-Call For Recall; NFL Owners Meeting; GMO Apple; Brooklyn-Loose Cow; Creative Chemistry Class.

Network TV At A Glance:

White House-Fallen Soldiers Call – 8 minutes, 15 seconds

Opioid Epidemic – 6 minutes, 25 seconds

Syria-Raqqa Assault – 6 minutes, 15 seconds

Weinstein Sexual Harassment Scandal – 4 minutes, 50 seconds

Ford Explorers-Call For Recall – 4 minutes, 20 seconds

Travel Restriction Blocked – 1 minute, 20 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Travel Restriction Blocked; Bipartisan Healthcare Plan; NFL Owners Meeting; Maryland-Hate Crime Trial; Wall Street News.

CBS: Bipartisan Healthcare Plan; Travel Restriction Blocked; Opioid Epidemic; White House-Fallen Soldiers Call; California Wildfires.

FOX: Bipartisan Healthcare Plan; California Wildfires; Weinstein Sexual Harassment Scandal.

NPR: Travel Restriction Blocked; California Wildfires; NFL Owners Meeting; Amazon Sexual Harassment Scandal.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Kimmel: "They have a policy where if an animal escapes a slaughterhouse, it gets to go free. Isn't that great? The bull is being sent to a rehabilitation facility for misbehaving cows. That's the good news. The bad news is it is also where they sent Harvey Weinstein."

Trevor Noah: "Speaking of hairy creatures, yesterday President Trump held a surprise press conference with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, which is kind of the worst surprise ever. 'Surprise, I brought Mitch McConnell!' Boo! What kind of surprise party is [with] Mitch McConnell?"

Trevor Noah: "I don't know, something's fishy here. They sound less like real friends and more like Trump trying to get Mitch a green card. 'This gentleman, I'm going to say Mitch, right, Mr. Immigration Officer, this relationship is special, it's so special.' 'That's what you said about Melania.'"

Trevor Noah: "See what [President Trump] said? 'President Obama never called. I call and I write. I also haven't called and I didn't write. But I do, except when I don't, which is now.'"

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LEADING THE NEWS

Senators Reach Bipartisan Agreement To Fund ACA Subsidy Payments.

The New York Times (10/17, Kaplan, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports on its front page that Sens. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Patty Murray (D-WA) "have reached a bipartisan deal to provide funding for critical subsidies to health insurers that President Trump said last week that he would cut off," Alexander said on Tuesday. This agreement aims "to stabilize health insurance markets under the Affordable Care Act." Under the agreement, "the subsidies would be funded for two years, a step that would provide at least short-term certainty to insurers." The article says Trump called the deal a "short term" solution.

USA Today (10/17, Jackson, 8.62M) reports that Trump again criticized the ACA on Tuesday, saying, "Obamacare is a disgrace to our nation. ... We are solving the problem of Obamacare." He also said the ACA was "dead" in his opinion. But after being told about the bipartisan deal, Trump said lawmakers "are working together and I know very much what they're doing, OK?"

In a front-page article, the Wall Street Journal (10/17, A1, Armour, Peterson, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) quotes Alexander as saying, "Sen. Murray and I have an agreement. ... Democrats feel like there are protections there...at the same time we give significant flexibility to states."

The AP (10/17, Fram) reports that Trump "spoke favorably about the bipartisan compromise, which is still likely to face opposition in Congress." Alexander added that Trump had been encouraging, and that he "likes this idea."

The article says that although the deal "is a breakthrough, they still need to secure the support of fellow Republicans and Democrats." The piece adds that Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) "was noncommittal, while Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., welcomed the agreement as a step forward that will provide stability for insurance markets in the short-term."

On its front page, the Washington Post (10/17, A1, Sullivan, Eilperin, 10.38M) reports "Republican leaders did not immediate[ly] endorse the Alexander-Murray framework, raising new questions about whether it would find any traction." The article adds that for now, "many Republican senators are distancing themselves from the emerging Alexander-Murray plan."

Bloomberg News (10/17, Edney, Wasson, Litvan, 4.52M) reports that if the proposal "becomes law, it could end a chaotic week that saw the White House move to dismantle parts of the Affordable Care Act even as Trump took credit for pushing lawmakers to work out the fixes."

Reuters (10/17, Abutaleb, Cowan) reports that Murray said about the deal, "We are ironing out a few of the last details right now but I am very optimistic that we will be able to make an announcement with all the details very soon." For his part, Alexander stated, "This takes care of the next two years." He added, "This is a small step. I'd like to undersell it, not oversell it."

Also covering the story are ABC World News Tonight (10/17, story 2, 2:35, Muir, 14.63M), NBC Nightly News (10/17, story 2, 0:30, Holt, 16.61M), USA Today (10/17, Berry, 8.62M) in a second story, the Los Angeles Times (10/17, Levey, Mascaro, 4.49M), the Washington Times (10/17, Boyer, 541K), the New York Post (10/17,

Fredericks, 4.31M), Politico (10/17, Haberkorn, 3.6M), CNBC (10/17, Mangan, Pramuk, Coombs, 3.48M), The Hill (10/17, Sullivan, 1.68M), the Huffington Post (10/17, Fuller, Bobic, Cohn, 5.74M), NPR (10/17, Kodjak, 2.4M), the Washington Examiner (10/17, Leonard, 465K), Roll Call (10/17, McIntire, 134K), and Modern Healthcare (10/17, Meyer, Subscription Publication, 238K).

Mark Walker Calls Bipartisan Deal “An Affront To GOP Promises To Repeal” ACA. The Hill (10/17, Sullivan, 1.68M) reports that in response to the announcement about the bipartisan deal, Rep. Mark Walker (R-NC), chairman of the conservative Republican Study Committee in the House, dismissed it “as an affront to GOP promises to repeal President Obama’s signature legislation.” Walker said, “Anything propping [ObamaCare] up is only saving what Republicans promised to dismantle.”

The Washington Examiner (10/17, King, 465K) reports that Walker tweeted, “The GOP should focus on repealing & replacing Obamacare, not trying to save it. ... This bailout is unacceptable.”

In a separate article, the Washington Examiner (10/17, King, 465K) reports that Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) “shrugged off criticism from House conservatives Tuesday that it was a ‘bailout.’” He said, “I appreciated President Trump’s encouragement and his recommendation that it was important to continue the cost-sharing payments for two years in order to avoid harming millions of Americans. ... That is kind of comment that I welcome, and I think his support is important.”

Another article in The Hill (10/17, Rouben, 1.68M) also covers the story.

Heritage Foundation Fellow Slams Bipartisan Deal To Fund ACA Subsidy Payments. The Hill (10/17, Greenwood, 1.68M) reports that on Tuesday, Ed Haislmaier, a senior research fellow in healthcare policy for the Heritage Foundation, “ripped a bipartisan deal...that would provide funding for” ACA subsidy payments to insurers. He stated, “For Congress, the most important thing is to recognize that funding the cost sharing reduction subsidies – as many are now calling for – would prop up the subsidized ObamaCare exchange market, but would do absolutely nothing to stabilize the broader, unsubsidized individual market.”

Mark Meadows Calls Bipartisan Deal A “Good Start.” The Hill (10/17, Weixel, 1.68M) reports that on Tuesday, Rep. Mark Meadows (R-NC), chairman of the House Freedom Caucus, “said more work needs to be done to get conservatives to support a bipartisan Senate deal to extend critical ObamaCare payments to insurers, but he called it a starting point.” Meadows is quoted as saying, “There are elements in the Alexander-Murray plan that we can build on, but much more work needs to be done.” He characterized the agreement as a “good start.”

The Washington Examiner (10/17, Weaver, 465K) also covers the story.

Connecticut Lawmakers Praise Bipartisan Deal. The Connecticut Mirror (10/17, Radelat) reports that the bipartisan deal “would also restore \$106 million in funding for advertising and marketing of the Affordable Care Act that helps people enroll in insurance plans.” Commenting on the agreement, Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) said, “This bipartisan agreement is a victory for American patients and consumers, showing how we can work together across party lines. ... Extending payments for critical healthcare subsidies ensures that countless Americans will retain access to their healthcare, in spite of the president’s repeated attempts to sabotage insurance markets.” Meanwhile, Sen. Chris Murphy (D-CT) “called the agreement ‘good news.’”

THE SECRETARY IN THE NEWS

Trump May Be Considering Alex Azar To Replace Price As HHS Secretary, Sources Say. Politico (10/17, Restuccia, Johnson, Karlin-Smith, Dawsey, 3.6M) reports President Trump “is leaning toward nominating Alex Azar, a former pharmaceutical industry executive and George W. Bush administration official, to serve as Health and Human Services secretary, according to two White House officials.” If confirmed, Azar would replace former HHS Secretary Tom Price who resigned last month following criticism about his use of private jets and military planes. The article adds that according to several unnamed sources, other possible candidates for the post, including CMS Administrator Seema Verma and FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, “are no longer under consideration.”

Reuters (10/17, Walsh) reports that Azar served as “deputy secretary at HHS during the administration of President George W. Bush before joining drugmaker Eli Lilly and Co, first as senior vice president of corporate affairs and communications, and later as president of Lilly USA, its U.S. affiliate.”

The Washington Post (10/17, Eilperin, Goldstein, 10.38M) reports that “both of the HHS secretaries for whom Azar worked are supporting him for the position.” Mike Leavitt on Tuesday said Azar was “an experienced, competent conservative who is confirmable.” Tommy Thompson praised Azar’s “record of proven competence” and combination of private- and public-sector management and “deep substantive health-care knowledge.”

The New York Daily News (10/17, Silverstein, 3.61M) reports that while Azar has experience working at HHS, he spent most of the last decade “working for the same drug industry he would be expected to oversee while leading the department.”

The Hill (10/17, Savransky, 1.68M) the Washington Times (10/17, Persons, 541K), the Indianapolis Star (10/17, Groppe, 479K), and the Indianapolis Business Journal (10/17, 37K) also cover the story.

Trump Says He Will Nominate A New HHS Secretary Soon. The AP (10/17) reports that on Tuesday, President Trump said he is “‘more than close’ to naming a new health and human services secretary.” He added that if his choice for HHS Secretary is confirmed, “it will be...fantastic.”

Democratic Lawmakers Want Trump Administration To Justify Decision To End ACA Subsidy Payments. The Washington Examiner (10/17, Leonard, 465K) reports that on Tuesday, congressional Democrats “demanded that the Trump administration justify its decision to end insurer payments, accusing him of doing so not for legal reasons, but to ‘sabotage’ Obamacare.” They wrote to President Trump and Acting HHS Secretary Eric Hargan, seeking “documentation to show which factors were considered in Trump’s decision to end the payments, known as cost-sharing reduction, or CSR, subsidies.” The lawmakers “asked for any analyses that were conducted, including what impact his decision

would have on health insurance costs, access to coverage, and federal spending.”

HHS IN THE NEWS

Trump Administration Reportedly Preventing Undocumented Minors Who Were Raped From Obtaining Abortions. The Huffington Post (10/17, Foley, 5.74M) reports, “Many undocumented immigrant girls seeking safety in the United States are raped during their journeys,” but when “they arrive, they are put in custody of a government that is now obstructing access to abortion.” The article says earlier this year, the Trump Administration implemented new rules “to prevent undocumented minors in government custody from getting abortions. Since March, the government has required shelters to get its approval before releasing girls for abortion-related services – approval that officials have refused to grant.” The piece adds that officials are demanding that “minors be sent to crisis pregnancy centers that discourage them from seeking abortions, and at times have intervened directly to discourage girls from terminating their pregnancies.” The Office of Refugee Resettlement said in a statement, “There is no constitutional right for a pregnant minor to illegally cross the U.S. border and get an elective abortion while in federal custody.”

Undocumented Immigrant Minor Files Another Lawsuit Seeking Permission For An Abortion. The Washington Post (10/17, Sacchetti, Somashekhar, 10.38M) reports, “The American Civil Liberties Union is accusing the Trump administration of illegally blocking a 17-year-old Central American immigrant from having an abortion and will urge a federal judge in Washington on Wednesday to clear the way for her and other young immigrants to terminate their pregnancies.”

The Dallas Morning News (10/17, Wang, 984K) reports that “Jane Doe,” a 17-year-old undocumented and unaccompanied immigrant in Texas, has filed another lawsuit seeking permission for an abortion. The article explains that Doe’s previous lawsuit was dismissed, but that she has filed another federal lawsuit in a different court against the heads of the Department of Health and Human Services, the Administration for Children and Families, and the Office of Refugee Resettlement. The American Civil Liberties Union is representing Doe in the

lawsuit, and “has requested a temporary restraining order to allow Doe to have an abortion.”

The New York Daily News (10/17, Cullen, 3.61M) reports that the Administration for Children and Families said in a statement that under federal law, the Office of Refugee Resettlement can “decide what is in the best interests of a minor in the unaccompanied alien children program and, in this case, her unborn baby.”

The Daily Caller (10/17, Carr, 521K) reports that Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton said that ruling in favor of Doe would “create a right to abortion for anyone on earth who enters the US illegally. And with that right, countless others undoubtedly would follow. Texas must not become a sanctuary state for abortions.” CNN (10/17, Levenson, Burnside, 33.59M) also covers the story.

HHS To Hold National Conference On Small Business Grants In Milwaukee.

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (10/17, Hauer, 628K) reports the Department of Health and Human Services will hold a national conference on the Small Business Innovation and Research and Small Business Technology Transfer grants in Milwaukee from November 7 to November 9. During the conference, “around 100 program managers from” the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Food and Drug Administration, and the National Institutes of Health will be in Milwaukee, and “attendees will be able to meet one-on-one with the program managers to learn how to submit successful applications.” Walter Koroshetz, the director of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, will give one of the keynote addresses at the conference.

Benefits Of Implementing Value-Based Care In Question.

STAT (10/17, 43K) reports that “the implementation of value-based care is a flop so far,” as “costs have continued to skyrocket,” Medicare “has lost money on accountable care organizations,” and “forecasted quality gains have not materialized.” The article explains that Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Director Seema Verma has begun “began soliciting new ideas last month for changing how care is delivered and paid for by the government.” According to STAT, Verma’s request “charted a new course for the agency’s

innovation center, saying it wants to cut red tape, empower consumers, and ‘allow physicians and other providers to focus on providing high-quality healthcare to their patients.’”

Opinion: HHS Should Use Emergency Prescription Assistance Program To Help Those Affected By Recent Hurricanes.

Brian Nyquist, the executive director of the National Infusion Center Association, writes in an opinion piece in The Hill (10/17, 1.68M) that the Department of Health and Human Services should enact the Emergency Prescription Assistance Program to help those who are struggling to obtain their prescriptions because of recent hurricanes. Nyquist explains that “the program provides a mechanism for more than 70,000 enrolled retail pharmacies nationwide to process claims for certain kinds of prescription drugs, specific medical supplies, vaccines and some forms of medical equipment for uninsured individuals in a federally-identified disaster area.”

Indian Health Service Defends Contract Awarded To Former NextCare CEO.

“The federal Indian Health Service agency is defending a contract it awarded” in September to Arizona-based Tribal Emergency Medicine, “whose CEO formerly led a firm that paid \$10 million to settle allegations of submitting false claims to government health programs,” the AP (10/17) reports. “Tribal Emergency Medicine CEO John Shufeldt previously led NextCare Inc., a multistate chain of urgent-care clinics,” the article explains. In 2009, a former employee filed a lawsuit against NextCare “on behalf of the U.S. government alleging the company conducted hundreds of unnecessary allergy and respiratory tests on patients and then submitted bills for the tests to government programs. ... The lawsuit also alleged the company inflated billings as part of a practice known as upcoding.”

Health Experts Call For Changes To Food Environment As CDC Research Shows Rising Obesity Rates.

With obesity rates in the US at “a new high,” public health experts are calling for “an aggressive shift in strategy – one that would change the food environment through initiatives such as soda taxes,” USA Today (10/17, Toy, 8.62M) reports. Traditional “public health efforts have centered on

communicating messages about what is healthy in the hopes of changing people's behavior," but new research by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics shows a steady increase in obesity rates among US adults, up from 30.5 percent in 1999-2000 to 39.8 percent in 2015-2016. The article cites "Craig Hales, the study's lead researcher and a medical epidemiologist at the CDC," and notes that "physician Jerome Adams, who was sworn in as surgeon general in August, on Monday cited obesity as among the Department of Health and Human Services' three top priorities," with the other two being mental health and addiction.

Brennan: NLM Is A "Safe Harbor" For Information. STAT (10/17, Blau, 43K) interviews National Library of Medicine Director Patricia Brennan, who discusses efforts to improve the accessibility of data. "The library is a safe harbor for information," Brennan told STAT. "We are counted on to openly curate the important health knowledge of an era – and preserve it across eras." Brennan insists that the NLM, part of the National Institutes of Health, "has not received any directive to restrict our information or change the information we have available," unlike other agencies which have restricted public access to certain information under the Trump Administration. "I have a buffer between me and the political," she said during a recent talk to journalists at the NLM, referring to Dr. Francis Collins, head of the NIH, an Obama appointee who has kept his job under the new Administration.

Opinion: US Should Fund More Research On How To Care For People With Alzheimer's Disease. Rob Egge, the chief public policy officer of the Alzheimer's Association, writes in an opinion piece in The Hill (10/17, 1.68M) that "this week, leading experts in dementia care and services are gathered at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for the National Research Summit on Care, Services and Supports for Persons with Dementia and Their Caregivers." Egge argues that while funding for research to prevent or cure Alzheimer's disease is crucial, the federal government should also fund research on how to better care for those already living with the disease.

More Researchers Keeping Primates In Shared Cages Rather Than Alone.

The NPR (10/17, Greenfieldboyce, 2.4M) "Shots" blog reports that more researchers are keeping primates in shared cages rather than alone. According to a survey, the percentage of research labs that kept primates in cages alone decreased from 59% in 2003 to 35% in 2014. The article reports that the National Institutes of Health's Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare's Guide for the Care and Use Of Laboratory Animals says shared cages should be the "default" for primates.

HEALTH REFORM

Trump Calls On Congress To Fix "ObamaCare Mess" At Heritage Foundation Event. The Hill (10/17, Bowden, 1.68M) reports President Donald Trump told a conservative gathering at the Heritage Foundation that he "commends" the bipartisan legislation negotiated by Sens. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Patty Murray (D-WA) to stabilize the healthcare system and said Congress should fix the "ObamaCare mess." Trump also said, "I'm pleased that Democrats have finally responded to my call for them to take responsibility for their ObamaCare disaster and work with Republicans to provide much needed relief to the American people." The Hill adds that "the bipartisan deal got a cold shoulder from Republicans on Tuesday, suggesting it faces a rocky path to become law."

President Trump May Have To Lobby For Bipartisan Healthcare Deal. Politico (10/17, Haberkorn, Cancryn, 3.6M) reports that a bipartisan deal negotiated between Sens. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Patty Murray (D-WA) to stabilize health insurance markets may rely on President Trump's support. The President praised the legislation as "a very good solution" Tuesday, but also said later to the Heritage Foundation, "While I commend the bipartisan work done by Sens. Alexander and Murray – and I do commend it – I continue to believe Congress must find a solution to the Obamacare mess instead of providing bailouts to insurance companies." Sen. Mike Rounds (R-SD) said, "The fact that the president has indicated a real interest in seeing a bipartisan fix like this move forward for a short-term fix is critical." Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell added that a vote has not been

scheduled on the legislation, saying, "We haven't had a chance to think about the way forward yet."

Trump Says Senate GOP Will Resume Work On ACA Repeal Bill After Tax Reform.

The Washington Examiner (10/17, Morrongiello, 465K) reports that on Tuesday, President Trump predicted that "Senate Republicans will return to healthcare reform as soon as Congress passes tax cuts, claiming GOP leaders still have the votes to pass a bill that would redirect federal funding for Obamacare to the states." He is quoted as saying, "We are very close." The article says Trump also endorsed the bipartisan deal that seeks to shore up ACA marketplaces.

U.S. News & World Report (10/17, 1.73M) also covers the story.

Trump Blames Dems For Premium Hikes For ACA Plans.

The Hill (10/17, Weixel, 1.68M) reports that on Tuesday, President Trump "blamed Democrats for any premium spikes for ObamaCare plans, even as key senators announced a bipartisan deal aimed at saving the insurance markets from actions taken by the administration." Trump tweeted, "Any increase in ObamaCare premiums is the fault of the Democrats for giving us a 'product' that never had a chance of working."

Sens. Bennet, Kaine Unveil Proposal To Add Public Option To ACA.

The Hill (10/17, Sullivan, 1.68M) reports that on Tuesday, Sens. Michael Bennet (D-CO) and Tim Kaine (D-VA) unveiled a bill which seeks "to add a government-run 'public option' plan to ObamaCare, modeled on Medicare." The article says the proposal, "part of a long-running debate in the Democratic Party about how far to go in expanding government-run health insurance, would move ObamaCare to the left, but does not go as far as Sen. Bernie Sanders's (I-Vt.) 'Medicare for all' plan." The piece adds that rather than eliminate the ACA and replace with Medicare for everyone, this bill "would provide an option modeled on Medicare as a choice alongside private plans offered through the existing ObamaCare system."

Some States, Insurers Scrambling To Raise Rates Following Trump's Decision To End ACA Subsidy

Payments. Carolyn Y. Johnson writes in the Washington Post (10/17, 10.38M) "Wonkblog" that state insurance regulators and insurers "scrambled to raise premiums for insurance plans sold on the Affordable Care Act exchanges Monday, after the White House announced it was ending key federal subsidy payments." The piece says some insurers are only now raising prices following President Trump's decision to end ACA subsidy payments. However, in several states, "insurance companies had already priced in a possible end of CSRs to their rate requests, anticipating President Trump's move."

Senate GOP's Slim Majority Threatened By The Age And Illnesses Of Certain Lawmakers.

The AP (10/17, Fram) reports, "Top Republicans coping with a razor-thin majority in the Senate as they try pushing a partisan agenda are running smack into another complication – the sheer age and health issues of some senators." The article adds that Sen. Thad Cochran (R-MS), aged 79, returned to Washington, DC on Tuesday "after a month of treatment at home. A statement said he still had urological issues and his treatment 'could affect his work schedule.'" The piece also mentions Sen. John McCain (R-AZ), 81, who is receiving treatment for brain cancer, and says that in July, the Senate delayed a vote to repeal the ACA for a week so that McCain could participate.

Sens. Toomey, Cotton Unveil New Bill To Exempt Certain People From ACA's Individual Mandate.

The Hill (10/17, Weixel, 1.68M) reports Sens. Pat Toomey (R-PA) and Tom Cotton (R-AR) have unveiled legislation that "would exempt certain people from ObamaCare's requirement that everyone must purchase health insurance or pay a fine." The lawmakers said the ACA's individual mandate is "cruel," and "they want to exempt working class Americans from the requirement." The measure "would exempt anyone who earns less than the national median household income; lives in a state where the average premium increased by more than 10 percent year over year; or anyone who lives in a county with only one insurer."

Insurers May Lose About \$1 Billion During The Remainder Of 2017 If ACA Subsidy Payments End, Analysis

Indicates. The Washington Examiner (10/17, King, 465K) reports a new analysis conducted by Avalere Health indicates ACA plans “will post losses of up to \$1 billion for the rest of 2017 due to President Trump’s decision to cut off insurer payments.” These losses differ “from state to state, with North Dakota plans losing the least with \$1.2 million for the rest of 2017 and Florida losing the most with \$200 million.” The article says the analysis highlights the impact of Trump’s decision, and the possible effect on ACA insurers if Congress fails to take action.

Federal Funding For Indiana’s ACA Navigators Cut By 82%. The Indianapolis Star (10/17, Rudavsky, 479K) reports the Trump Administration recently cut “funds to support its Navigator program, which helps consumers find coverage through the marketplace and enroll for Medicaid.” The move deeply impacted Indiana, which “saw an 82 percent cut in its funding, going from \$1.6 million in 2016 to \$296,704 for 2017.” The article says these decreases have caused concern that people will be unable to find assistance to enroll in ACA plans. The piece adds, however, that in many cases, “federally qualified health centers have their own navigators and other entities also support individuals who can assist with enrollment.”

Pittsburgh, Erie Roman Catholic Dioceses Settle Lawsuits Over ACA’s Contraception Mandate. The AP (10/17, Mandak) reports, “The Pittsburgh and Erie Roman Catholic dioceses have settled lawsuits seeking to overturn an Affordable Care Act mandate that would have forced them to provide contraceptive and abortion-inducing drugs or services as part of their employee health care plans.” Earlier this month, the Trump Administration announced it was rescinding the ACA’s contraception mandate, and issued new rules which “broadened ‘conscience protections’ to include nonprofits and certain other businesses that claim a moral objection to contraception or abortion, even if it’s not religious-based.” The article says the US Supreme Court had ordered the plaintiffs and the US government to settle the suits, and on Tuesday, Pittsburgh Bishop David Zubik, the lead plaintiff in the case, announced the settlement, saying that it “restores religious freedom granted by the First Amendment.”

Democratic Candidates In Minnesota’s Gubernatorial Race Unanimously Support Single-Payer Healthcare System. The St. Paul (MN) Pioneer Press (10/17, Stassen, 527K) reports that as debate over the fate of the ACA continues, “Minnesota Democrats who would be governor are near united in their prescriptions: Universal and single-payer is the way forward.” The article says during a recent debate, “the half-dozen Democratic-Farmer-Labor candidates gave nods to supporting universal health care.” Four of them “proudly said they supported a single-payer health care model, meaning a publicly financed system.”

North Dakota Insurance Commissioner Says He Will Not Allow More Rate Hikes For ACA Plans. The AP (10/17, Nicholson) reports that on Tuesday, North Dakota Insurance Commissioner Jon Godfread said “he will deny any additional rate increases” for ACA plans being offered for 2018. Godfread warned last week that President Trump’s decision to end ACA subsidy payments to insurers could raise rates by up to 10 percent. On Tuesday, Godfread wrote to Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota, Medica and Sanford Health Plan, saying he would not allow any more increases. He stated that “this is an issue that is between insurance carriers and the federal government,” and that it was his “duty to look out for those consumers who have had to absorb multiple rounds of increases to their health insurance premiums without receiving any assistance from the federal government.”

Centene Raises Premiums In Arkansas By 21.4 Percent. The Arkansas Democrat Gazette (10/17, Davis, 319K) reports that Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson (R) said additional premium increases for plans on the state’s exchange will have a “minimal impact” on the cost of the state’s expanded Medicaid program. Due to the increases, “the state will pay higher premiums next year to provide coverage under Arkansas Works,” but the costs are likely to be offset by the elimination of cost-sharing reduction payments. The article explains that Centene has raised its average premium in the state by 21.4 percent.

Celtic Insurance/MHS To Raise Average ACA Plan Premiums In Indiana By 35.7 Percent. The Indianapolis Business Journal (10/17, 37K) reports that Celtic Insurance Co./MHS is increasing its average premiums for ACA exchange by 35.7 percent to \$496 per month. The article points out that the company “is one of two insurers that have committed to the Obamacare exchanges for Indiana next year.”

New Jersey Regulators Approve Premium Increases For Individual ACA Plans. The Philadelphia Inquirer (10/17, Brubaker, 1.71M) reports that the New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance approved average rate increases for individual ACA plans for next year. Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey will increase rates 24.3 percent and AmeriHealth New Jersey rates will rise by 17.1 percent. The Inquirer adds, “Were it not for uncertainty over federal policy, such as the elimination of payments to insurers to cover out-of-pocket costs for consumers and weakened enforcement of the requirement that individuals buy health insurance, the increases would have been significantly lower, Horizon said.”

The AP (10/17) reports that AmeriHealth has expanded its service and will offer plans in 13 of the state’s 21 counties under the new rates next year.

Massachusetts State Senators Propose Wide-Ranging Healthcare Reform Bill. The AP (10/17, Salsberg) reports Massachusetts Senate leaders filed a bill Tuesday to which “aims to squeeze out between \$475 million and \$525 million in overall health care savings by 2020.” The “wide-ranging proposal” includes provisions to “curb price increases for prescription drugs, reduce the number of unnecessary visits to hospital emergency rooms and smooth out vast disparities between payments made to smaller community hospitals and their large Boston counterparts.” The AP reports that the measure is “likely to undergo changes as it makes its way through the legislative process.”

Vermont Joins Lawsuit Against Trump To Maintain ACA Subsidies. VT Digger (VT) (10/17, Mansfield, 3K) reports Vermont

Attorney General TJ Donovan announced Tuesday that his state will join a lawsuit along with 17 other states and DC against President Trump over his “decision to cut off federal health insurance subsidies designed to help low-income sick people.” Donovan explained, “There’s got to be some sort of process here. ... You just can’t say one day, ‘We’re going to stop making these payments from the federal government.’ That would be too arbitrary. It comes down to process.” The article reports that 13,000 Vermont residents receive federal cost-sharing reduction subsidies.

Senate Healthcare Bill Could Rescue MinnesotaCare Funding Cuts. The Minneapolis Star Tribune (10/17, Brooks, 1.27M) reports that the bipartisan legislation proposed by Sens. Patty Murray (D-WA) and Lamar Alexander (R-TN) clarifies that lowering premiums in the state insurance marketplace, as Minnesota has done, will not cause a reduction in federal healthcare subsidies. The measure is in response to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Service’s decision on the state’s ACA waiver application, which determined that the state would lose \$742 million in funding for its MinnesotaCare program. Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) said, “They want to encourage things like what Minnesota did,” adding, “What we did was set a path for other states to do the same thing, and if you cut us off, you cut off other states.”

McCain, Murkowski Say They Support Bipartisan Healthcare Deal. The Hill (10/17, Carney, 1.68M) reports Sens. John McCain (R-AZ) and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) both gave their support behind a bipartisan healthcare bill Tuesday. McCain said, “While this deal certainly doesn’t solve all the problems caused by Obamacare, it shows that good faith, bipartisan negotiations can achieve consensus on lasting reform. ... I look forward to voting in support of this bill.” Murkowski called it a “short-term deal” and added that it was “an important step as we work towards long-term solutions.” The Hill added, however, that it is “not clear if the Alexander-Murray deal can get the 60 votes needed in the Senate, much less win over the more conservative House GOP caucus.”

Bipartisan Healthcare Deal Includes Provisions For Democrats And Republicans. The Wall Street Journal (10/17,

Hackman, Mathews, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) examines the compromise between Democrats and Republicans in the healthcare proposal announced Tuesday by Sens. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Patty Murray (D-WA). The Journal observes that Democrats secured restored funding for cost-sharing payments for two years and funding for ACA outreach, while Republicans added increased flexibility for waivers and catastrophic plans.

Sen. Johnson To Question OPM Nominees On Congressional Healthcare Contributions. [Roll Call](#)

(10/17, Lesniewski, 134K) reports Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI), Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Chairman, plans to question nominees for the Office of Personnel Management Wednesday on the agency's policy of paying "employer contributions for members of Congress and staffers who were moved from the Federal Employee Health Benefits system to the District of Columbia exchange set up under" the ACA. The nominees, Jeff T.H. Pon for director and Michael Rigas for deputy director, were informed that the committee sought documents regarding that topic as part of the confirmation process. Johnson added, "I've already spoken to both the nominee for director and for the deputy director. ... They're fully aware of it, and you can expect that question coming up in the hearing tomorrow as well."

Key Questions Surround The Senate's Bipartisan Healthcare Proposal.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/18, King, Leonard, 465K) examines some key questions about the bipartisan plan circulated by Sens. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Patty Murray (D-WA). The piece discusses whether the plan could pass in the House given the Republican Study Committee's tweet that the deal was a "bailout," and whether the President will support it. The Examiner also assesses how states will benefit from the measure, including whether 2018 rates will be affected, and the piece asks whether the Administration might delay open enrollment which is set to start November 1.

Commentary Considers Health Reform. Several outlets offer opinions on health reform.

Matt O'Brien writes for the [Washington Post](#) (10/17, 10.38M) "Wonkblog" that President Trump is taking a "three-pronged approach to undermining Obamacare" which includes cutting back on outreach, letting people buy "bare-bones coverage" again, and "pulling the plug on Obamacare's cost-sharing reduction payments." O'Brien discusses Trump's statements in support of a bipartisan bill that would continue the CSRs, but concludes, "The only thing that is clear is that right now Trump is threatening to take steps to make insurance more expensive and markets less stable than they were before."

Brian Balogh writes in a [Washington Post](#) (10/17, 10.38M) piece that last week, President Trump again sought to erase "his biggest humiliation since taking office: the failure to repeal and replace Obamacare." The executive order he signed includes a provision to expand access to "Association Health Plans." Balogh wonders if Trump understands what comprises an association, and adds, "We really can't blame the president for not knowing the scope of associations, though. Few Americans understand how associations affect every facet of their daily lives."

Aaron Blake writes for the [Washington Post](#) (10/17, 10.38M) "The Fix" blog that President Trump first justified his decision to stop paying ACA subsidies to insurers because the insurance companies were "getting rich" off of them, pointing to their stock prices. Blake adds that Trump was "cherry-picking his data" from the date the ACA passed, not when it was "actually implemented," and leaves out the fact that insurers are "generally taking losses from their Affordable Care Act plans." The piece concludes, "Very little of it makes sense, and coming from a president who seemed to vacillate daily on what he wanted from an Obamacare replacement, it suggests Trump doesn't really have a game plan or understanding of how all of this works."

Joshua Jamerson writes in a [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/17, 6.45M) "WashWire" piece that President Trump has indicated he would sign a bipartisan effort to shore up ACA marketplaces. Jamerson adds that Sens. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Patty Murray (D-WA) are working on such a measure. It would authorize funding for ACA subsidy payments to insurers, and provide states with more flexibility to reshape the healthcare law.

Bloomberg View (10/17, 4.52M) editorializes that the bipartisan agreement reached by Sens. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Patty Murray (D-WA) to shore up the health insurance system is “exactly the kind of rational compromise that Washington needs more of.” The editorial urges President Trump to “get his own party, especially in the House of Representatives, to help pass it.” The piece concludes that “by demonstrating how readily the law can be tweaked in productive ways that appeal to both Democrats and Republicans, it could begin to lay a bipartisan foundation for the U.S. health-care system.”

Michael Katz, a pediatric anesthesiologist, writes in The Hill (10/17, 1.68M) that the healthcare debate in Washington is “missing a fundamental point: the real problem with American health care is the fundamentally flawed business structure underlying its delivery.” Katz explains that the “system is exceptionally good at caring for the very sick, injured and dying but poorly equipped to promote a healthy society and the healthy lifestyles that consume less care.” The piece recommends that the President and Congress enact policies to “develop a consolidated and integrated health system” and concludes that we need leaders who recognize “our society’s moral obligation to achieve health equality.”

David O. Barbe, President of the American Medical Association, writes in the U.S. News & World Report (10/17, 1.73M) that the Trump Administration’s “decision to end cost-sharing reduction payments not only disrupts the health insurance market, but contradicts many of the health reform priorities expressed this year by both the president and members of Congress.” The decision will “not increase competition or consumer choice” of health insurance plans, will “cause average premiums to rise by 20 percent in 2018,” and will “increase the federal deficit by \$194 billion from 2017 through 2026,” according to Congressional Budget Office analyses. Barbe concludes, “Clearly, the recent action taken by the administration has created a crisis point where partisan differences must be set aside in favor of a bipartisan agreement to maintain the stability of the non-group insurance market place” and that “our patients are counting on Congress to do the right thing.”

The New York Daily News (10/18, 3.61M) editorializes that the bipartisan legislation authored by Sens. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and

Patty Murray (D-WA) is a “modest bill” that is a “no-brainer fix.” The piece observes that the bill is a “bipartisan remedy” to a “health-insurance crisis of the President’s own making – restoring subsidies that enable insurance companies to offer plans with affordable copays, and taking other steps to stabilize, not sabotage, Obamacare markets.” Despite being a “no-brainer,” the piece says that it has no “guarantee that it has any chance of passage in the Republican-controlled House.”

John Stoeher, in a U.S. News & World Report (10/17, 1.73M) column, calls for “constitutional conservatives” to recognize that President Trump’s announcement to end payments to health insurers that help cover out-of-pocket costs for low-income Americans “is actual tyranny.” The piece discusses the Anti-Federalist papers during the founding era which “understood a nation is a social contract.” The column concludes that “self-described constitutional conservatives are not considering the fullness of the Constitution” and “are focusing on one vital aspect – which is that Congress has the power of the purse – while overlooking another vital aspect – which is the goal of protecting and defending against the state of nature.”

Abbe Gluck, professor at Yale Law School’s Solomon Center for Health Law and Policy, writes for Vox (10/17, 1.54M) that “Modern American history has never seen as full-scale an effort to sabotage a valid law as we have with President Trump and the Affordable Care Act.” The “intentional, multi-pronged sabotage of the ACA ... violates both Trump’s constitutional obligations and quite possibly the obligations of his Department of Health and Human Services.” Gluck adds that the Constitution requires the President to “take Care that the laws be faithfully executed,” and concludes, “The president has a right not to like the ACA. But so long as it is the law of the land, he does not have the right to undermine it through the use of executive power.”

Jay Bookman writes in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution (10/17, 1.16M) that when President Trump claims that “Obamacare is finished,” what he means is that he “is ensuring that the program helps as few Americans as possible, at as high a cost as possible to taxpayers, in hopes that by inflicting a lot of pain he can destroy the program’s growing popularity.” Bookman continues, “Trump has taken a hostage with no real idea of what ransom he wants in return” because after more

than two years, Trump has “offered up nothing in the form of a plan or a bill” – aside from what congressional Republicans “vomited forth.” Bookman concludes that Trump’s “plan” is to cause as much chaos and pain to as many people as possible,” and that he is “doing it because he can destroy, but he cannot build.”

Eric Leenson and Dan Geiger, Co-Directors of the Business Alliance for a Healthy California, write in the San Diego Union-Tribune (10/17, 668K) that “small businesses are among the most negatively impacted by our nation’s health care system’s runaway costs and corporate insurance system.” The column says that the Healthy California Act, SB 562, provides for Medicare-for-all and would especially benefit small businesses by “lowering overall health expenditures,” “freeing businesses from the burden and expense of managing and paying for employees’ health care,” and “the stress of administering” health insurance plans. The piece concludes by quoting a former Cigna vice president, Wendell Potter, who said, “When businesses understand the benefits of single payer and speak out, there will be no stopping the movement for universal health care.”

Daniel Hemel, assistant professor at the University of Chicago Law School, in an op-ed in the Washington Post, reprinted in the Harrisburg (PA) Patriot-News (10/17, 553K), calls for states to seize the “opportunity to restore order to their insurance markets” following President Trump’s announcement his Administration will not pay ACA subsidies. The states can make those subsidy payments themselves, encouraging “insurers to stay on the exchanges rather than rushing to the exits,” then sue the Department of Health and Human Services for reimbursement. The states are likely to win such a suit, as “the Supreme Court has interpreted similar statutory language to require the federal government to make payments even in the absence of a congressional appropriation.”

Ed Kilgore writes in the Daily Intelligencer (NY) (10/17, 519K) that “only legislation can bring back the payments that offset insurers’ obligation under the Affordable Care Act to ensure that low-income consumers can buy an individual health-insurance policy without ruinous out-of-pocket expenses.” While Sens. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Patty Murray’s (D-WA) proposals had long included continuing cost-sharing reduction payments, their “negotiations were made both more urgent and more politically complicated last

week when the president abruptly announced that he was canceling the payment” of the CSR reimbursements. Kilgore adds that the “main problem with this I-broke-it-so-Congress-can-fix-it approach is timing” because rates for 2018 have already been set and the “damage may already be done.”

The Tulsa (OK) World (10/17, 320K) editorializes that President Trump’s “most controversial move” to “halt federal payments for cost-sharing reductions that help millions of lower-income Americans afford coverage” has caused “concern for the viability of the ‘Obamacare’ marketplaces.” The editorial adds that President Trump “owns the political consequences” of the decision. The World concludes that “if the cost of that insurance skyrockets and the availability disappears because of Trump’s actions, the president will have a hard time blaming the implosion of Obamacare on Obama.”

OPIOID NEWS

Rep. Marino Withdraws From Consideration For Drug Czar Position After Criticism. NBC Nightly News (10/17, story 4, 0:20, Holt, 16.61M) reported, “President Trump says his nominee to be the next US drug czar is withdrawing from consideration for the job.”

The CBS Evening News (10/17, lead story, 1:40, Mason, 11.17M) reported that “Congressman Tom Marino [R-PA] withdrew under pressure today as President Trump’s nominee to be drug czar” following a television report revealing his “role in legislation that makes it easier for drug companies to distribute opioids in the midst of an epidemic that’s claiming thousands of lives.”

The New York Times (10/18, A19, Baker, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports, “The collapse of Mr. Marino’s nomination highlighted the Trump administration’s troubles formulating a response to a crisis that the president has called unlike any” other in the history of the US.

The Washington Post (10/17, Gearan, Bernstein, Higham, O’Keefe, 10.38M) reports Trump announced the withdrawal of Rep. Tom Marino’s nomination as the head of the Office of National Drug Control Policy. The article points out that the announcement follows a Washington Post/60 Minutes investigation that found Marino had “helped steer legislation in Congress making it harder for the Drug Enforcement Administration

to act against giant drug companies.” The Los Angeles Times (10/17, Lauter, 4.49M) reports Trump said that “we’re going to be looking into” Marino’s actions.

Reuters (10/17, Lynch, Brice) reports that “the legislation championed by Marino...was the product of a drug industry quest to weaken the US Drug Enforcement Administration’s authority to stem the flow of painkillers to the black market.” The article reports that “the law made it almost impossible for the DEA to freeze suspicious shipments of narcotics to prevent them from reaching the street.”

The Wall Street Journal (10/17, Nicholas, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports after the investigation’s findings were released, many members of Congress called for his nomination to be withdrawn and praised the President after he made the announcement. The AP (10/17, Superville, Daly) reports Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-MO) said that she will introduce legislation to repeal the law. The Philadelphia Inquirer (10/17, Whelan, 1.71M) reports Reps. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) and Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ) are leading an effort to repeal the bill in the House. Fitzpatrick said in a press release, “This legislation is about righting a wrong and upholding our commitment to keep our constituents safe.”

The Hill (10/17, Savransky, Rouben, 1.68M) points out that several agencies that “play a role in the federal response to the opioid epidemic” lack Senate-confirmed leaders, including the Department of Health and Human Services, the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, and the DEA.

Also covering the story are Politico (10/17, Ehley, 3.6M), the Washington Examiner (10/17, Giaritelli, 465K), the ABC News (10/17, Stracqualursi, 2.83M) website, CNN (10/17, Vazquez, 33.59M), Bloomberg News (10/17, Olorunnipa, 4.52M), NPR (10/17, Chappell, 2.4M), The Atlantic (10/16, Berman, 1.64M), the New York Daily News (10/17, Silverstein, 3.61M), and the Allentown (PA) Morning Call (10/17, Olson, 312K).

Columnist: Withdrawal Of Marino Nomination Is Another Obstacle To Addressing The Opioid Crisis. Dan Janison writes in his column in Newsday (NY) (10/17, Janison, 1.64M) that the White House is facing “hurdles on the path to solutions” for the opioid crisis. Janison argues that the controversy surrounding Marino’s nomination to head the DEA

is one of those obstacles for the Trump Administration.

Commentaries Address Opioid Crisis, Marino’s Withdrawal. A USA Today (10/17, 8.62M) editorial is critical of the President’s delay in addressing the opioid epidemic, saying he said “he would declare the emergency” over the summer, “but didn’t follow through.” USA Today says both Congress and the President need to do more, and in the wake of Rep. Tom Marino’s withdrawal Tuesday as Trump’s nominee to lead the ONDCP, the editorial urges Trump to nominate “a public health expert, not a politician.”

John M. Gray, president and CEO of the Healthcare Distribution Alliance, argues in USA Today (10/17, 8.62M) that the 2016 law which prompted Marino’s withdrawal, known as the Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act, was “a bipartisan, commonsense step forward to improve enforcement efforts and combat the opioid epidemic.” He notes that it went into effect in April 2016, “well after the opioid epidemic took hold. Based on this timeline, the law had no bearing on any enforcement slowdown that occurred in prior years, as alleged by the reporting.”

Trump Says He’ll Formally Declare National Emergency To Combat Opioid Epidemic Next Week.

USA Today (10/17, Korte, 8.62M) reports that after first promising “to declare a national emergency to confront the epidemic 68 days ago,” President Trump “now says he’ll formally declare that emergency next week, a two-month delay that he said underscores the ‘time-consuming work’ behind his administration’s response to the crisis.” Neither the White House nor the President “would explain what’s holding up the proclamation, though Trump suggested that he’s wading through uncharted waters.”

DOJ To Consider Repeal Of Law Blocking DEA From Halting Opioid Shipments.

USA Today (10/17, Johnson, 8.62M) reports the Justice Department is weighing whether to seek a repeal of the Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act, legislation passed in 2016 “that ultimately undermined law enforcement’s ability to stop suspicious shipments of opioids that have been driving surges in overdose deaths across the country.” That review follows “a joint investigation

by The Washington Post and 60 Minutes” which found “that the federal Drug Enforcement Administration was essentially handcuffed by the law pushed by Rep. Tom Marino,” President Trump’s nominee to oversee national drug policy who has withdrawn his name from consideration in the wake of the investigation. Also reporting on the calls for review and repeal of the law are the Los Angeles Times (10/17, Bennett, Bierman, 4.49M), the Washington Times (10/17, Noble, 541K), and The Hill (10/17, Roubein, 1.68M).

Investigation Of Alleged Fentanyl Shipping Operation Leads To Multiple Indictments.

The Oregonian (10/17, Bernstein, 878K) reports 38-year-old Jian Zhang has been “accused of shipping fentanyl from China into the United States, deliveries that resulted in multiple drug overdoses across the country, including four in Oregon in 2015.” Along with Zhang, 20 other “people from China, Canada and the United States have been indicted” in connection with an alleged drug trafficking scheme that has been dubbed “Operation Denial.” Members of the Portland High Intensity Drug Trafficking Interdiction Task Force have worked on the effort to bust the operation. The Oregonian mentions that DHS was involved in the investigation. The task force is not mentioned by NBC Nightly News (10/17, story 5, 1:40, Holt, 16.61M), the St. Louis Post-Dispatch (10/17, 831K), and the NPR (10/17, Lucas, 2.4M) website, which also highlight the indictment of Zhang and Xiaobing Yan, who are both Chinese nationals. NPR also mentions that HSI was involved in the investigation. NPR quotes Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein as saying, “For the first time, we have indicted major Chinese fentanyl traffickers who have been using the Internet to sell fentanyl and fentanyl analogues to drug traffickers and individual customers in the United States.”

Opioid Crisis Causing Increase In Hepatitis C Cases. The Washington Post (10/17, Zezima, 10.38M) reports that “the rampant spread of hepatitis C” is another consequence of the national opioid crisis. The article reports that new cases of the disease “have nearly tripled nationwide in just a few years, driven largely by the use of needles among drug users in their 20s and 30s.”

Hospitals Move Forward On Opioid Response Strategies Despite Lack Of Federal Funding.

Ahead of President Trump’s expected announcement declaring the opioid epidemic a national emergency, Modern Healthcare (10/17, Johnson, Subscription Publication, 238K) reports on the need for federal funding to address the issue, and how hospitals and health systems “say they’re moving forward on strategies they have developed to respond to the crisis” even without that funding. One example cited in the article is Linden Oaks Behavioral Health, “a mental health and substance abuse treatment provider affiliated with Edward-Elmhurst Health system in the Chicago suburbs.” According to Modern Healthcare, “Linden Oaks has deployed continuing education for clinicians to improve their prescribing habits,” and “has also altered its electronic medical record system to automatically prescribe naloxone when patients are over a certain high-dose threshold on their opioid prescriptions. Clinicians can also look up information from the state’s prescription drug-monitoring program within the EHR itself rather than having to go to an outside system.”

PhRMA Calls For Repeal Of Law Limiting DEA’s Opioid-Response Capabilities.

The Hill (10/17, Delk, 1.68M) reports in its “Briefing Room” blog that the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) called Tuesday for the repeal of the Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act of 2016, which “has come under renewed scrutiny after a new joint report from the Washington Post and ‘60 Minutes’ that pointed to the law as undercutting the Drug Enforcement Administration’s ability to crackdown on the flow of the drugs into the market.” In addition, PhRMA “urged Congress to reconsider the penalties for DEA-registered drug distributors who fail to ensure the safety of opioid distribution by reporting suspicious purchases of the drugs.”

Healthcare Providers Seek Alternative Pain Treatments In Response To Opioid Epidemic.

U.S. News & World Report (10/17, 1.73M) reports healthcare providers are responding to the nation’s opioid epidemic, and the related rise in drug overdose deaths, by “aggressively turning to new approaches” for treating patients with chronic pain. “Emerging

trends focus on improving physical and emotional health and counseling patients to realize their own role in relieving their pain, says Bhiken Naik, an anesthesiology and neurosurgery professor at the University of Virginia Health System,” and the article notes that “Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines published in 2016 recommend that physicians turn to cognitive behavioral therapy, exercise and patient education,” along with alternative medications, before resorting to opioids. In line with that “growing focus on the possibility of a psychological component to pain that needs attention,” the University of Virginia and the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center “are both expanding their Enhanced Recovery After Surgery programs to treat surgery pain using as little opioid medication as possible.”

Beaver County Becomes Third In Pennsylvania To Sue Pharmaceutical Companies Over Opioid Crisis.

The AP (10/17) reports that Beaver County has become the third Pennsylvania county “to sue pharmaceutical companies for allegedly contributing to an opioid addiction crisis that has resulted in thousands of overdoses nationally in recent years.” The county’s lawsuit “against 14 drug companies and several doctors the county claims have contributed to 279 overdose deaths there since 2012” was announced on Oct. 16 by attorney Bob Peirce, Jr.

HEALTHCARE NEWS

UnitedHealth Posts Higher Q3 Earnings, Beats Analysts’ Expectations.

The AP (10/17, Murphy) reports that on Tuesday, UnitedHealth Group posted a 26-percent increase in third-quarter earnings, beating Wall Street expectations. The largest insurer in the US “also raised its forecast for 2017 again, and signaled that it expects more growth next year.” As a result, the company’s shares “shot up past \$200 to reach another all-time high after markets opened.” Data show UnitedHealth added almost “1 million more customers compared to last year’s quarter, largely due to growth in its Medicare and retirement business.”

The Wall Street Journal (10/17, Prang, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports that UnitedHealth said it earned \$2.6 billion, or \$2.66 per share for the third quarter, compared to \$2.1 billion a year ago. The company anticipates total earnings of about \$10 per share for this year. It raised its forecast from \$9.75 to \$9.90 per share from the previous quarter.

Reuters (10/17, Humer) reports that UnitedHealth expects earnings to grow by “13 to 16 percent in 2018 as medical costs remain low, even as it adjusts to new healthcare rules that U.S. President Donald Trump has promised to put in place.” The article says UnitedHealth is considered “the bellwether for the industry,” and its gains on Tuesday also benefited companies “such as Anthem Inc, Aetna Inc, and Cigna Corp.” The piece adds that UnitedHealth has largely exited ACA exchanges, and CEO Dave Wichmann “said the company only had about 30,000 customers receiving subsidies in four states, and that any impact” from Trump’s plans to end subsidy payments “would be ‘extremely small.’”

The Minneapolis Star Tribune (10/17, Snowbeck, 1.27M) reports that UnitedHealth’s shares rose by five percent during trading on Tuesday. The company intends to “continue to focus investments going forward on its fast-growing Optum division for health services, including pharmaceutical benefits management, non-hospital health care and technology,” according to Wichmann.

Bloomberg News (10/16, Tracer, 4.52M) also covers the story.

Columnist Warns Federal Retiree Health Premiums Could Increase Markedly If House Budget Proposal Becomes Law.

Columnist Joe Davidson writes in the Washington Post (10/17, 10.38M) “PowerPost” blog that along “with President Trump’s earlier budget plan, which would slice and dice federal retirement, Capitol Hill and the White House have mounted a multi-front assault on federal worker compensation.” He warns that if the Budget Resolution put forward by the House “becomes law, federal retiree health insurance premiums could rise significantly over time because growth in the government’s subsidy would be limited to the increase in inflation.”

Wisconsin Bill Would Prohibit University Of Wisconsin Employees From Working At Planned Parenthood. The AP (10/17) reports the Wisconsin state Senate's health committee is expected to hold a public hearing on a bill that would prohibit University of Wisconsin employees from "from performing abortions or providing training at facilities where abortions are performed, other than hospitals." The bill "targets an arrangement between Planned Parenthood and UW in which faculty members work part-time at the organization's Madison clinic."

Arkansas Health Care Association Joins Coalition To Support Limits On Payouts For Lawsuits. The Arkansas Democrat Gazette (10/17, Moritz, 319K) reports multiple Arkansas business groups on Monday announced they will join a coalition to raise funding for and support a proposed state constitutional amendment to limit some kinds of payouts in lawsuits. State legislators "voted in the spring to have such rules put before voters as a proposed amendment to the Arkansas Constitution," and the proposal will be decided by constituents in the November 2018 general election. The coalition, Arkansans for Jobs and Justice, is supported by the Arkansas Health Care Association among other groups.

Pennsylvania Regulators Issue More Nursing Home Citations But Understate Incidents' Severity, Experts Say. The Harrisburg (PA) Patriot-News (10/17, Simmons-Ritchie, 553K) says that after investigative reports showed Pennsylvania regulators have neglected "to properly cite and penalize nursing homes for serious failures," the state Department of Health "appears to be taking a tougher line on nursing homes," with the department issuing twice as many immediate jeopardy citations against homes as those over the past three years combined. Advocates for elder care "confirmed that the department appeared to have gotten tougher on bad homes," but some "said... the department was either still understating the severity of nursing home incidents or their inspectors were failing to uncover incidents to begin with."

EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS

Vulnerable Elderly Increasingly Becoming Victims Of Emergencies, Disasters. CNN (10/17, Nedelman, 33.59M) reports California wildfires and Florida, Texas, and Puerto Rico hurricanes "have put a spotlight on vulnerable seniors – including a number of deaths that authorities have said were preventable." The article discusses the impact of each event on older adults in the affected communities, noting many experts "continue to grapple with how best to protect the elderly, who face difficulties evacuating from disasters, more health issues on average and perhaps even a greater share of the psychological impact." Concerning the deaths of 14 residents of the Florida nursing home at The Rehabilitation Center at Hollywood Hills, the article says the Florida Health Care Association "instructed each facility to prepare seven to 10 days of medication, oxygen and other medical necessities for each resident, according to spokesperson Kristen Knapp."

NUTRITION & OBESITY

Google Maps Pulls Experimental "Calorie Counting" Feature From App After Criticism. The New York Times (10/17, Victor, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports Google Maps pulled an experimental "calorie-counting" feature, which showed how many calories someone could burn by walking to a certain destination. Some criticized the feature as being insulting for suggesting that people needed exercise, while others said the feature was dangerous for people with eating disorders.

MEDICARE

Expanded Medicare Enrollment Options Give Seniors More To Sort Out. The Palm Beach (FL) Post (10/17, Elmore, 273K) reports, "Hundreds of Palm Beach County residents are calling advisors daily for help to sort out expanded options" for Medicare. "We definitely have more interest this year than last year," said Desirae Mearns, lead project director for Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders (SHINE),

adding that seniors in Palm Beach County have 46 plan options in 2018 compared to 43 last year.

Opinion: CMS Proposal To Exempt Rural Physicians From MIPS Will Do More Harm Than Good.

Caravan Health CEO Lynn Barr writes in an op-ed for The Hill (10/17, 1.68M) that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' "proposed rule to exempt two-thirds of the nation's clinicians from the Medicare Incentive Payment System (MIPS) will do more harm than good" and furthermore would "disable the infrastructure of electronic health records (EHRs) that has been subsidized with \$37 billion taxpayer dollars." Rural clinicians are exempt from quality reporting and "have provided lower quality care," Barr writes, adding that CMS' proposal to exclude reporting for pneumococcal and influenza vaccines – two particularly "important quality measures" – is shortsighted. "Our data clearly shows that more vaccines means fewer patients going to the hospital and fewer pneumonia-related deaths," particularly for seniors.

MEDICAID & CHIP

"Bickering" Over CHIP, Community Health Centers Reportedly Harming Nation's Healthcare.

Paige Winfield Cunningham writes in the Washington Post (10/17, 10.38M) "The Health 202" about the ongoing discussions between Democrats and Republicans over how to pay "for states to keep running the Children's Health Insurance Program and for community health centers to care for low-income people," and for how long to extend the funding. Cunningham is critical of lawmakers for their "bickering," arguing that "if Congress were serious about funding the two programs without causing crippling uncertainty for states and providers, it could have tackled the issue months ago." She also criticizes President Trump for "signing an executive order that many health-care experts warned could destabilize the marketplace even further by allowing individuals and small-business employees to buy narrower coverage through trade associations."

Arkansas Governor Says Insurance Rate Hikes Will Not Threaten State Medicaid Expansion.

The AP (10/17, DeMillo) reports Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson

(R) said Tuesday that the 14.2 percent to 25 percent insurance rate hike approved by state regulators after President Trump ended cost-sharing reduction payments will not imperil the state's hybrid Medicaid expansion. "Under Arkansas' hybrid expansion program, Medicaid funds are used to purchase private plans for low-income residents through the insurance marketplace," the AP explains. State Democrats, however, "accused Hutchinson of glossing over the effect Trump's action will have."

Michigan Democrats Say Proposed Medicaid Cuts "Devastating" For Vulnerable People.

MLive (MI) (10/17, Slagter, 947K) reports on a panel of Democratic state and local officials that convened to discuss "the best way to push back against the president's proposed \$700 billion cut to Medicaid funding in 2018." The group said the proposed Medicaid cuts would be "devastating" to senior citizens and people with disabilities and that opponents should emphasize the personal impact of the reductions.

HEALTH & MEDICAL NEWS

Pharmaceutical Companies Deny Responsibility For Drug Pricing At Senate Hearing.

Bloomberg News (10/17, Edney, 4.52M) reports leading drug industry lobbyists at a Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions hearing alleged pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs), hospitals, and other groups are to blame for prescription medication prices. Groups testifying, including the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA), continued to "say that the measures used to assess them are incorrect, and that they only get a portion of the profit their critics say they do." PBMs at the meeting, however, "pointed the finger back at pharmaceutical companies, and said the cut they take as middlemen has no connection to how drugmakers set prices."

The Washington Examiner (10/17, King, 465K) reports the Pharmaceutical Care Management Association, which represents PBMs, refuted PhRMA's claims that PBMs and insurers focus "on list prices, which are not reflective of actual spending trends." The article notes Congress has passed bills intended to speed up generic approval at the FDA, and that Sen. Al Franken (D-MN) at the hearing questioned

why drug prices are so high and “pointed out that taxpayers pay for research at the National Institutes of Health, and U.S. customers pay higher prices for the finished product.”

Senator Questions Pharmaceutical Industry About Doing Away With Rebates. STAT (10/17, Swetlitz, 43K) reports that Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) “asked a panel of pharmaceutical industry representatives at a Senate committee hearing” about whether drugmakers and pharmacy benefit managers would be willing to do away with rebates. “Why don’t we just get rid of rebates and let you negotiate directly with manufactures, take that \$100 billion a year, and just reduce the list price? Wouldn’t it be simpler for us to understand where the money goes?” Alexander asked Mark Merritt, president and chief executive officer of the Pharmaceutical Care Management Association. Industry representatives said they would be willing to consider the proposal, although they expressed doubt about the feasibility of enacting such a reform.

Families Of Deceased Troops Allege Pharmaceutical Companies “Knowingly Financed” Anti-American Militia In Iraq. USA Today (10/17, Madhani, 8.62M) reports a group of families of “dozens of U.S. troops killed or injured” during the Iraq war filed a federal lawsuit on Tuesday “against several U.S. and European pharmaceutical and medical supply companies, alleging that the corporations knowingly financed the anti-American militia Mahdi Army through bribes and kickbacks to officials at a government ministry controlled by the group.” The lawsuit names “some of the biggest names in the industry – including GE Healthcare, Johnson & Johnson, Pfizer, AstraZeneca and Roche,” and alleges they often paid kickbacks to officials in the Iraqi Ministry of Health, who “in turn used the proceeds to help fund the militia that carried out attacks against U.S. troops in Iraq.”

Massachusetts Senate Considers Bill To Require Data Submissions From Drug Companies. The Boston Globe (10/17, McCluskey, 969K) reports Massachusetts Senate legislators on Tuesday revealed “sweeping health care legislation” addressing issues such as prescription treatment costs and hospital prices, which “proponents say will improve the state’s

health care system and curb medical spending.” The new bill would mandate that “drug companies for the first time to submit data to the state Health Policy Commission and be scrutinized by the watchdog agency,” and “sets a target for controlling commercial spending on hospital care by slowing the rate of price growth at the most expensive hospitals.”

Appeals Court Vacates Verdict In Talcum Powder Cancer Case.

Bloomberg News (10/17, Fisk, 4.52M) reports a Missouri appeals court has vacated the \$72 million verdict in Fox v. Johnson & Johnson, ruling the case shouldn’t have been tried in St. Louis. “The verdict to the family of Jacqueline Fox, who died in 2015, was the first of a series of jury awards in the St. Louis court,” where juries “have awarded a total of \$300 million in verdicts” related to claims that Johnson & Johnson’s talc products cause ovarian cancer. According to the AP (10/17, Stafford), “the appeals court cited a Supreme Court ruling in June that placed limits on where injury lawsuits could be filed, saying state courts cannot hear claims against companies not based in the state where alleged injuries occurred.” In response, “Jim Onder, who is representing many plaintiffs in the lawsuits, has argued that Missouri is a proper jurisdiction because Johnson & Johnson packages and labels some products in Missouri.” Also reporting are Reuters (10/17, Raymond), the St. Louis Post-Dispatch (10/17, Currier, 831K), and Fierce Pharma (10/17, Sagonowsky).

Gene Tumor Boards Increasingly Providing Guidance On Cancer Care.

The AP (10/18, Marchione) reports that patients with cancer are increasingly “having their care guided by gene tumor boards,” panels of experts that study “the patient’s cancer genes and match treatments to mutations that seem to drive the disease.” The gene tumor boards aim for “precision medicine, the right drug for the right person at the right time, guided by genes.” The AP adds that “Some doctors worry that tumor boards’ recommending off-label treatments diverts patients from research that would benefit all cancer patients,” and mentions that the “American Society of Clinical Oncology’s TAPUR study tests off-label drugs and shares results with their makers and federal regulators.”

Mouse Study Finds Link Between Stress And Digestion In Female Mice.

The New York Post (10/17, Steussy, 4.31M) reports new research published in Nature's Scientific Reports suggests stress may have the same effect on human digestion as a fattening diet. Researchers at Brigham Young University conducted the mouse study, which looked at the mice's gut microbiota; they found that the gut microbiome of female mice subjected to stress tests "actually changed to resemble that of an obese mouse," which "suggests that stress might impact metabolism just as much as diet, the researchers wrote." Male rats, however, "didn't have the same microbiome shift, but they did become more anxious and less physically active."

New Hampshire Gov. Removes Member From Cancer Cluster Panel.

The AP (10/17) reports New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu said Tuesday he's removed Steve Kenda, a past Republican candidate for state Senate and governor, from the Seacoast Cancer Cluster Commission over an op-ed piece written by Kenda denying the existence of a cancer cluster. According to the AP, Sununu "said Kenda's participation has become too much of a distraction" from the purpose of the 21-member commission, which has for several years "been investigating a greater-than-expected number of cases of two types of rare childhood cancers in the seacoast region: rhabdomyosarcoma and pleuropulmonary blastoma."

Scientific American Editors Voice Support For Cosmetics Safety Bill.

In an article for the November 2017 issue, the editors of Scientific American (10/17, 878K) express support for the Personal Care Products Safety Act, which Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Susan Collins reintroduced in Congress last May. "The bill would require, among other things, that all cosmetics makers pay annual fees to the agency to help finance new safety studies and enforcement – totaling approximately \$20 million a year," which the FDA would use to "assess the safety of at least five cosmetics chemicals a year." The legislation "also gives the agency the authority to pull products off the shelves immediately when customers have reported bad reactions, without waiting for a review that can take multiple years." The editors highlight the importance of the bill, and the issues it addresses,

in light of a petition filed earlier this year that called on the FDA to ban lead acetate from hair dyes.

Transenterix CEO Says Senhance Won't Compete Directly With Intuitive Surgical's Da Vinci.

Reuters (10/17, Banerjee) reports Transenterix CEO Todd Pope on Tuesday "played down...the threat posed by his company's surgical robotic system," called Senhance, "to market leader Intuitive Surgical Inc, saying he did not expect the two to compete head on." Transenterix's share price surged – and Intuitive Surgical's fell – at the end of last week after the US Food and Drug Administration cleared Senhance for use, but "Pope said Senhance had a lot of ground to cover before it might have to compete directly with Intuitive's Da Vinci device, which has dominated robotic surgery purchasing since it was approved in 2000."

Johnson & Johnson's Animas Closure, Cessation Of Insulin Production Are Reflective Of Broader Healthcare Issues.

The Los Angeles Times (10/17, Lazarus, 4.49M) discusses the recent announcement from Johnson & Johnson saying the company is closing its Animas subsidiary and ceasing its production of insulin pumps, which creates new challenges from J&J customers that the Times says "mirror problems all too common in the healthcare industry – the turmoil that can arise when a medical-device or drugmaker halts sales, or when an insurer decides to no longer cover a specific pill, gadget or treatment." The article examines how such problems can affect healthcare customers and offers insight on how to proceed.

DC Council Disapproves Of Extending Contract To Manage City's Only Public Hospital.

The Washington Post (10/17, Itkowitz, 10.38M) reports six members of the Washington, DC council "expressed disapproval" of the request by Veritas of Washington LLC to renew its \$4.2 million consulting contract to manage the United Medical Center, which is "the city's only public hospital." The firm was hired last year "to stabilize the only full-service hospital east of the Anacostia River," but has shown "little progress in improving the hospital's finances or quality of care." The Post adds the company is "led by campaign donors to D.C. Mayor Muriel E. Bowser (D)." Because of the disapproval, the

council will have 45 days instead of 10 to review the contract.

People With Adverse Childhood Events Found More Likely To Suffer Health Problems As Adults.

The Denver Post (10/17, Baumann, 817K) reports on a study from the Colorado Department of Human Services and the University of Denver finding that “children who grow up in a dysfunctional or abusive home are more likely to develop depression and cancer as adults, and they’re more likely to one day have children with health issues as well.” The study was based on a survey of 3,677 Colorado residents 18 and over, and “measured adverse childhood experiences, which are events that range from physical, sexual or emotional abuse and different types of household dysfunctions such as family member incarceration.” Overall, those who reported one such incident “were twice as likely to be diagnosed with depression, and those with four or more incidents were nearly twice as likely to suffer from cancer and almost six times more likely to experience depression.” Their children also “were two to five times as likely to be diagnosed with Attention Deficit Disorder.”

Second TB Case Reported In Durham County, North Carolina.

The Durham (NC) Herald Sun (10/17, Johnson, 66K) reports on a second tuberculosis case in Durham County, North Carolina, explaining that “a student at Northern High School is being treated,” as is a student at UNC Chapel Hill. Both “are being treated at home and will remain off campus until the threat of spreading the disease is over.” The county health department will conduct “TB blood tests on people who were exposed at Northern.” The Herald Sun adds, “Durham County reported 11 cases of active tuberculosis in 2016.”

VA Facility In Omaha Maintained Secret Waiting List Of Veterans Seeking Mental Health Appointments.

The AP (10/17) reports the Department of Veterans Affairs’ Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System “maintained an unauthorized, secret waiting list of veterans for some Omaha mental health appointments, according to US Department of Veterans Affairs documents.” The article points out that “the VA set up strict requirements for establishing waiting lists following a 2014 scandal that showed VA employees were covering up

chronic delays with false paperwork and secret lists,” and that the facility in Omaha was not on a list of 40 facilities that reportedly still had secret lists in 2016. VA officials declined to comment on how many employees were involved in maintaining the list or how many veterans were affected.

Hepatitis A Deaths Now Up To 19 In San Diego County.

The San Diego Union-Tribune (10/17, Sisson, 668K) reports there have now been 19 deaths and 507 confirmed cases in the ongoing hepatitis A outbreak in San Diego County, CA. Dr. Wilma Wooten, the county’s public health officer, said that the county is also investigating another 47 potential cases.

Researchers Trying To Identify Early Signs Of Brain Damage In Professional Fighters.

STAT (10/17, Robbins, 43K) reports researchers have found that “active fighters,” boxers and mixed martial arts fighters, have “higher levels of two brain proteins, called neurofilament light and tau, compared to retired fighters or non-fighters,” and that “fighters with greater exposure to repetitive head trauma have lower brain volumes.” The findings are part of an ongoing study, and “researchers have enrolled close to 700 mixed martial arts fighters and boxers, both active and retired, in the past six years.” The investigators are seeking “to identify early signs of trauma-induced brain damage from subtle changes in blood chemistry, brain imaging, and performance tests,” which “may show up decades before visible symptoms such as cognitive impairment, depression, and impulsive behavior.”

US District Judge Orders Flint To Pick A Long-Term Water Source.

The Detroit Free Press (10/17, Matheny, 1.07M) reports US District Judge David M. Lawson issued a summary judgment ordering Flint to select a long-term water source. The ruling “comes after Flint’s City Council has balked for months at entering into a long-term deal for water supplies from the city of Detroit via the regional Great Lakes Water Authority.”

Researchers Identify Four Genes In Humans, Dogs, And Mice That May Be Linked To OCD.

The NPR (10/17, Chen, 2.4M) “Shots” blog reports that researchers

identified “four genes with the strongest links to OCD to date.” The researchers compared the DNA of dogs and mice with compulsive tendencies to the DNA of people with and without OCD. The findings were published online Oct. 17 in Nature Communications.

Newsweek (10/17, Firger, 991K) reports that the study “may help scientists develop more precise and effective treatments for the psychiatric condition.”

Excessive Exercise May Be Linked To Higher Risk Of Buildup Of Plaque In Heart Arteries By Middle Age In Caucasian Men, Study Suggests.

The New York Daily News (10/17, Scotti, 3.61M) reports that research suggests “Caucasian men who exercise three times above the US national guidelines for working out (150 minutes per week) are 86% more likely than black men, and those who exercise less, to develop a buildup of plaque in their hearts by the time they’re middle aged.”

The New York Post (10/17, 4.31M) runs a SWNS article reporting that investigators “compared 25-year exercise patterns and made the surprising discovery that very active white men are 86 percent more likely to experience a buildup of plaque in the heart arteries by middle age.” However, “this didn’t apply to black men, they discovered.” The findings were published in Mayo Clinic Proceedings.

NAFLD, Nonalcoholic Steatohepatitis The Fastest-Growing Reasons For Liver Transplants In Young Americans, Research Indicates.

Reuters (10/17, Crist) reports that research indicates “nonalcoholic fatty liver disease [NAFLD] and its more aggressive form, nonalcoholic steatohepatitis, have become the fastest-growing reasons for liver transplants in young Americans.” Investigators found that “the number of liver transplants performed for NASH increased from 0.53% in 2002 to 4.46% in 2012, a nine-fold jump.” Reuters adds that “due to increasing childhood obesity, hypertension and diabetes...more young adults are reaching end-stage liver disease early in life, researchers say.” The findings were published online in Journal of Clinical Gastroenterology.

Impax Laboratories Inks Deal To Merge With Amneal Pharmaceuticals.

The Wall Street Journal (10/17, Rockoff, Cimilluca, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports Impax Laboratories and Amneal Pharmaceuticals recently agreed to merge in a deal that would establish the US’ fifth-largest generic medication producing company in terms of revenue. They said on Tuesday that the all-stock transaction would grant Impax shareholders 25 percent of a new company, while owners of Amneal would take the remainder. The new group will be called Amneal Pharmaceuticals and is expected to be worth as much as \$6.4 billion.

Reuters (10/17) reports Cantor Fitzgerald analysts wrote in a client note on the deal that the merger increases chances for Impax to grow from a mid-size drug maker to a leading generics and specialty medication company. The article says the combined company will produce “a diverse pipeline with more than 300 products either filed with the FDA or in active stages of development, Cantor analysts said.”

The San Francisco Business Times (10/17, Leuty, Subscription Publication, 904K) reports Impax ran “into a string of issues in recent years” while attempting to diversify beyond generic treatments, with FDA inspections exposing “problems a couple years ago” at a California facility.

The Philadelphia Inquirer (10/17, Loyd, 1.71M) and Fierce Pharma (10/17, Helfand) also report.

Column: Allergan Restasis Case Exemplifies How Companies Manipulate Patent System.

Bloomberg View (10/17, 4.52M) columnist Joe Nocera offers commentary on Allergan’s attempts to transfer its Restasis patents to the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe -- “a now-infamous patent ploy” – positing that the legal maneuvering represents “trickery” undertaken by many companies in the industry “to keep generics off the market.” According to Nocera, the “primary way” branded drug makers prevent generic competition “is by abusing the patent system.” He adds that a federal judge who ruled the Allergan patents are invalid simply “called Allergan out on” its “scam.” Nocera mentions Allergan issued a number of “citizen’s petitions” to the FDA and sued compounding company Imprimis on allegations that it violated FDA regulations.

Troy University Researchers Developing Anti-Depressants Through Zebrafish Studies. The New York Daily News (10/17, Scotti, 3.61M) reports researchers at Troy University in Alabama are using zebrafish to develop anti-depressant treatments for humans because fish reportedly are “a reliable animal to use in identifying depression.” According to one university researcher, the “neurochemistry (between fish and people) is so similar that it’s scary.” The National Institute of Mental Health estimates that nearly “16 million people had at least one major depressive episode in 2012.”

District Judge Invalidates Allergan’s Restasis Patents. Reuters (10/17, Wolfe) reports US district judge William Bryson on Monday ruled against Allergan’s patents for its dry-eye treatment Restasis, which the company transferred to New York state’s Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe last month on claims that the tribe’s status as a sovereign nation would prevent the patents from being reviewed by the US patent office. Bryson invalidated the patents for the \$1.5 billion treatment, calling it an attempt by Allergan to “rent” the tribe’s sovereign immunity. Allergan, however, said the move was justified because the same patents were already under review in federal court, while critics “said it was a cynical attempt to prolong the company’s monopoly on Restasis.”

District Judge Refuses Pharmaceutical Companies’ Request To Block Nevada Drug Pricing Law. The Las Vegas Review-Journal (10/17, Bekker, 458K) reports that on Tuesday, US District Judge James Mahan refused a request by the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America and the Biotechnology Innovation Organization “to immediately block a Nevada law requiring them to detail diabetes drug prices and disclose manufacturing costs and research investments come July.” Mahan said he did not find “immediate and irreparable harm” in the case because of the law’s timeline. The companies allege in the lawsuit that the law violates federal patent and industry trade secret rules.

Experts Consider Whether Ignyta Pharmaceuticals’ Cancer Treatment Can Be Compared To Pfizer’s. Forbes

(10/17, 5.11M) contributor Matthew Herper considers Ignyta Pharmaceuticals’ cancer treatment entrectinib that shrank one patient’s tumors and “has kept them in check for more than a year,” and, according to research presented at the World Conference on Lung Cancer, “shrank tumors in 79% of patients and kept working for a median 28.6 months, about 10 months longer than the current drug, Pfizer’s Xalkori, did in separate clinical trials.” Herper writes that nonetheless, the study “raises questions about whether it’s possible to compare similar cancer medicines, and whether it’s possible to keep innovating after a few gene-targeted drugs have been invented.”

Study Reveals Association Between Depression, Sagging Testosterone Levels In New Fathers. In “Well,” the New York Times (10/17, Quenqua, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports research indicates that postpartum depression “may occur in from 7 percent to 10 percent of new fathers, compared to about 12 percent of new mothers, and that depressed dads were more likely to spank their children and less likely to read to them.” Now, research published in the September issue of the journal *Hormones and Behavior* “has found a link between depression and sagging testosterone levels in new dads, adding physiological weight to the argument that postpartum depression isn’t just for women anymore.” In addition, the study revealed that “while high testosterone levels in new dads helped protect against depression in fathers, it correlated with an increased risk of depression in new moms.” The study abstract points out some 149 couples took part in the study.

Men Who Receive Blood Donated By Previously Pregnant Women May Face Increased Risk Of Death Following The Transfusion, Study Indicates. STAT (10/17, Begley, 43K) reports, “Men who received a blood transfusion from a woman who had ever been pregnant had a higher risk of dying prematurely than men who got blood from a man or a never-pregnant woman,” researchers reported.

HealthDay (10/17, Thompson, 11K) reports researchers arrived at that conclusion after examining data on some 31,000 patients in Holland who “received 59,320 transfusions in all

from one of three types of donors – men, never-pregnant women and women who'd been pregnant." Notably, "after receiving a single transfusion, the three-year death rate among men was 13.5 percent for those who received male blood, 13.1 percent for those who got never-pregnant female blood, and nearly 17 percent for those who received blood from a previously pregnant female." The findings were published in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Reuters (10/17, Rapaport) and Scientific American (10/17, Weintraub, 878K) also cover the story.

Physician Warns Of Dangers Of Online Companies Selling Designer Substances.

In STAT (10/17, 43K) "First Opinion," Abraham Nussbaum, MD, chief education officer at Denver Health, an associate professor of psychiatry at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, writes about the dangers of online companies "selling compounds that have never been approved for human use but that are so similar to existing drugs they attract users...seeking an alternative to" physicians and dealers. Ostensibly these "designer" substances are sold for the purposes of "research." Dr. Nussbaum believes such companies "sideline the doctor, the pharmaceutical industry, and its regulators from the patient-physician relationship" and pose a danger to people buying substances from them.

Oversized Eyedrops Waste Patient's Money And Medicine By Design.

NPR (10/18, Allen, 2.4M) reports on its "Shots" page that ProPublica has found that pharmaceutical companies make eyedrops that overflow your eyes by design. The article says that for at least twenty-five years, those in the "eye care industry," including doctors, pharmaceutical officials, and researchers, have known "that eyedrops are much larger than the eye can hold." The article tells the story of a project in the early 1990s as Alcon where the team created a "microdrop" that would reduce waste but still maintain effectiveness. The product was "killed" because of the cost of getting FDA approval and the risk that it would lead to decreased sales. NPR also reports of similar research on the efficacy of smaller eyedrops that was funded by Allergan, yet Allergan does not make eyedrops in smaller sizes to date.

More Hospitals Investing In Housing And Support For Homeless To Reduce ER Visits.

Kaiser Health News (10/18, Bartolone) reports on a "growing number of hospitals nationwide" that have "invested in housing programs in recent years, from Florida to Chicago and farther west," with the goal of ending the cycle of emergency room use by homeless people by providing them housing along with a case worker. Rand Corp. researcher Sarah Hunter says, "There's pretty good evidence that it's more cost-effective to provide housing with supports than have these people live on the streets and just cycle in and out of emergency rooms and in-patient stays." The piece reports that the nonprofit hospitals' investment in these programs helps them "meet their community service obligations in exchange for tax breaks."

GLOBAL HEALTH

China Confirms H5N6 Bird Flu Outbreak In Central Province.

Reuters (10/17, Gu, Mason) reports China's Ministry of Agriculture confirmed that there is "an outbreak of bird flu at broiler chicken farms in" the city of Hexian in Anhui province. The outbreak in the central province has been caused by the H5N6 strain.

Op-Ed: Canada Must Push For National Registry Of Payments From Companies To Physicians.

Nav Persaud of Toronto's St. Michael's Hospital and the University of Toronto, Joel Lexchin of Toronto's University Health Network, and Andrew S. Boozary of the University of Toronto and the Harvard Public Health Review write in an op-ed in STAT (10/17, 43K) that Canadian province Ontario "took a historic step" by introducing legislation to increase transparency on how drug companies interact with prescribers in an effort to understand how physicians receive payments from manufacturers. The authors advocate for this on a national scale and suggest the establishment of a registry of payments similar to that which is in place in the US.

NATIONAL NEWS

House Panel Sets Puerto Rico Recovery Hearing For Next Week.

Reuters (10/17, Cowan) reports that a House panel said Tuesday that it has scheduled an Oct. 24 hearing “to examine Puerto Rico’s hurricane recovery efforts and the role of a financial oversight board in those efforts.” The House Committee on Natural Resources, which last year worked on legislation creating the board to help Puerto Rico manage its debt, will hold the hearing.

Puerto Rican Delegate: Trump Has Given Everything We’ve Asked For.

Townhall (10/17, Vespa, 523K) reports Puerto Rico’s delegate, Jenniffer Gonzalez-Colon, said in a recent interview with USA Today “that everything they’ve asked for, Trump has delivered.” Gonzalez-Colon told USA Today, “I will tell you that everything that the president said that he was going to send to the island, it’s getting there. The resources are there. The help is there.”

Desperate Puerto Ricans Turning To Wells At Superfund Site For Water.

NBC Nightly News (10/17, story 11, 1:40, Holt, 16.61M) reported on the “deepening and dangerous water crisis” in Puerto Rico in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria. The EPA says “the desperate are breaking into water wells” at a Superfund site in Dorado “that may actually be contaminated.” NBC’s Gabe Gutierrez reported from the town that “even though there’s a clearly marked danger sign, people were willing to risk it.” He noted that “only 17 percent of the island has power, making it hard to pump and treat water as this crisis deepens.”

Discussing Obama And Slain Soldiers, Trump Cites Death Of Kelly’s Son.

President Trump’s Tuesday remarks – in which he invoked the death of Chief of Staff Kelly’s son while defending his claim one day earlier that former President Barack Obama and other presidents didn’t always call the families of slain military members – received widespread media coverage, including reports on all three major network newscasts. Coverage was largely negative, highlighting that Kelly has been reluctant to publicly speak about his son’s death.

In the lead story for NBC Nightly News (10/17, lead story, 2:25, Holt, 16.61M), Peter Alexander reported that “as the body of one of the American soldiers killed in Niger this month returns home to Florida and the White House confirms President Trump spoke to all four

families of the fallen, the President’s taking another swing at Barack Obama on the gravest of presidential obligations.” NBC played an audio clip of Trump saying in a Tuesday interview with Fox News Radio, “I think I’ve called every family of somebody that’s died, and it’s the hardest call to make. ... As far as other representatives, I don’t know. You could ask General Kelly, did he get a call from Obama?” Alexander added, “The President invoking the memory of his chief of staff’s son, Robert Kelly, a Marine killed in 2010.”

On the CBS Evening News (10/17, story 5, 2:40, Mason, 11.17M), Margaret Brennan reported, “White House officials claim to be unaware of whether Mr. Trump had spoken to Kelly before making the remark. The retired Marine Corps general has actively avoided calling attention to his son’s death, making it clear he does not want it to be exploited.” Brennan added, “Today, despite the President’s prodding, Kelly declined to comment. But a White House official, who requested anonymity, told CBS News, ‘I can tell you Obama did not call General Kelly after the death of his son.’ But White House records show that Kelly and his wife did attend a closed-door breakfast with Mr. And Mrs. Obama to honor Gold Star families a year after their son’s passing.”

On ABC World News Tonight (10/17, story 3, 3:10, 14.63M), David Muir reported that “Kelly has indicated to the past in reporters that he did not want to talk publicly about the death of his son.” ABC’s Cecilia Vega added that “Kelly has repeatedly made it clear to reporters he does not want to talk about his son’s death. And he would not go on the record today. But the White House tells us he never got a call from...Obama. Obama aides do not dispute that. But they do say Kelly did attend a White House breakfast for Gold Star families, where he sat at the first lady’s table.”

The Washington Post (10/17, Parker, 10.38M) reports, “For the past seven years...Kelly has gone out of his way to keep the death of his son free from politics.” However, Trump on Tuesday “thrust [Kelly’s] son into the public and political glare, invoking the younger Kelly as part of a continuing attack on...Obama.” The President’s “remark...was unplanned, said two White House officials, who said they were caught off-guard by Trump’s comments. One said Kelly may have mentioned some details surrounding his son’s death to the president in private — and the president then repeated them in public, a relatively frequent occurrence with Trump.”

Similarly, under the headline “Top General’s Grief Becomes Political Talking Point For Trump,” the New York Times (10/17, Landler, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that Trump “is testing” Kelly’s “long-held reluctance to discuss his loss. Mr. Trump, in defending his handling of the deaths of four Green Berets in Niger, falsely claimed on Monday that...Obama did not contact the families of fallen troops. And on Tuesday, Mr. Trump brought to light that Mr. Obama never called Mr. Kelly after the death of his son.” The Times adds that Kelly “has not addressed the dispute. But colleagues who worked with him at the Pentagon during that period said they did not recall him expressing unhappiness with the way Mr. Obama handled the death of his son.”

Writing for McClatchy (10/17, 67K), Kate Irby says that “Kelly had to endure every parent’s worst nightmare when his son...stepped on a land mine in Afghanistan in 2010 and died. Now...Trump is calling into question whether...Obama ever called Kelly after that happened – dragging Kelly into a spat Trump started between the two presidents over whether Obama called the families of fallen soldiers.”

The AP (10/17, Woodward, Lemire) similarly reports that Trump “has pulled bereaved military families into a painful political fight of his own making, going so far Tuesday as to cite the death of” Kelly’s “son in Afghanistan to question whether...Obama and other presidents did enough to honor the military dead. He’s boasted that ‘I think I’ve called every family of someone who’s died,’ though AP found relatives of two soldiers who died overseas during Trump’s presidency who said they never received a call or a letter from him. The White House said he did telephone on Tuesday the families of four soldiers who were killed in Niger nearly two weeks ago, the issue that had spawned the controversy this week.”

Under the headline “After Trump Brings Chief Of Staff Into Controversy Over Condolence Calls, He Phones Families Of Killed Soldiers,” the Los Angeles Times (10/17, Bierman, 4.49M) quotes White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders as saying in a Tuesday statement, “President Trump spoke to all four of the families of those who were killed in action in Niger. He offered condolences on behalf of a grateful nation and assured them their family’s extraordinary sacrifice to the country will never be forgotten.”

Under the headline “Twelve Days Of Silence, Then A Swipe At Obama: How Trump Handled

Four Dead Soldiers,” the Washington Post (10/17, Rucker, Lamothe, 10.38M) reports, “The White House did not receive detailed information from the Defense Department about the four...soldiers” – slain Oct. 4 in Niger – “until Oct. 12, and that information was not fully verified by the White House Military Office until Monday, according to a senior White House official who spoke on the condition of anonymity to comment on the internal process. At that point, the official said, Trump was cleared to reach out to the four families – both in letters that were mailed Tuesday and in personal phone calls to family members that day.”

Politico (10/17, McCaskill, 3.6M) reported that Trump “has faced an onslaught of criticism – most notably from former Obama aides – since making the accusation against Obama on Monday afternoon in a Rose Garden news conference when asked about his silence regarding the death of four Green Berets related to an Oct. 4 ambush in Niger. ‘The traditional way, if you look at President Obama and other presidents, most of them didn’t make calls,’ Trump “alleged without evidence Monday. ‘A lot of them didn’t make calls. I like to call when it’s appropriate, when I think I’m able to do it.’” The Hill (10/17, Greenwood, 1.68M) and the Daily Caller (10/17, Pfeiffer, 521K) also report on Trump’s remarks from Tuesday and Monday.

Regarding his comment that past presidents did not call fallen soldiers’ kin, Trump on Tuesday called the story “fake news,” telling Fox News (10/17, 12.87M), “I don’t know what Obama’s policy was. I write letters and I also call.” Trump touted the support he said he was receiving in the polls in spite of negative media coverage.

During a Tuesday appearance on Fox and Friends (10/17, 8:40 a.m. EDT, 2.04M), counselor to the President Kellyanne Conway defended Trump’s comment that previous presidents have not called fallen soldiers’ families, saying that he was “making the point that there’s many different ways to reach out” to the kin, and “not everybody calls.” Conway also said, “The President made very clear...what he meant and what he is saying,” adding that Trump’s “focus is always on the grieving, on the families, on the loss of life, and on protecting our soldiers.”

Responding to Trump’s comment about past presidents calling fallen soldiers’ kin, Sen. Ed Markey (D-MA) told CNN’s Situation Room (10/17, 5:25 p.m. EDT, 988K) that he was with Obama when the then-President was visiting

families of soldiers who lost their lives in Benghazi.

Florida Democrat Criticizes Trump's "Insensitive" Remarks To Widow Of Slain Soldier. The Miami Herald (10/17, Cohen, 701K) reports, "Sgt. La David T. Johnson of Miami Gardens, the soldier and father who was killed in Niger, returned home Tuesday afternoon." He "was saluted with a ceremonial homecoming at Miami International Airport." The Herald adds that Trump "called Johnson's pregnant widow Tuesday afternoon." The President "told his widow, who was in a car heading to the airport with her family and US Rep. Frederica Wilson, D-Miami Gardens, that 'he knew what he signed up for...but when it happens it hurts anyway,' according to Wilson, who heard the call on speakerphone in the car." Wilson told the Herald, "I think it's so insensitive. It's crazy. ... You don't say that to someone who lost family, the father, the breadwinner. You can say, 'I'm so sorry for your loss. He's a hero.'"

WPost's Von Drehle Questions Trump's Patriotism. In his Washington Post (10/17, 10.38M) column, David Von Drehle says that Trump's "impulsive attack on his predecessors" relating to the calling of the families of slain soldiers "has raised again a question that has haunted me since his inaugural address. Is Trump patriotic?" Von Drehle adds, "Patriotism doesn't require us to praise what is not praiseworthy. Like any other American, Trump is free to criticize as he sees fit. But when an elected leader disparages, without cause, the good faith of other elected leaders, he is tearing the country down. ... I don't think we've ever been led by a person with such a low opinion of America."

Trump Says He Was "Surprised" By The "Dishonesty In The Media." Politico (10/17, Nelson, 3.6M) reported that during a Tuesday interview with radio host Chris Plante, President Trump said "that he was 'surprised' by what he perceived as the media's continued antipathy towards him after last year's election, characterizing CNN and NBC News 'a joke' and 'a total joke,' respectively." Said Trump, "Actually, dishonesty in the media is one of the things that surprised me the most. I thought after I won, the media would become much more stable and much more honest. They've gone crazy." Trump added, "CNN is a joke. NBC is a total joke. You watch what they report, it bears no relationship to what I'm doing. But the media is absolutely

dishonest and frankly, I've never seen anything quite like it."

In Project Veritas Video, New York Times Editor Rips Trump, Pence. The Washington Times (10/17, Richardson, 541K) reports, "A New York Times senior staff editor called President Trump an 'oblivious idiot' and Vice President Mike Pence 'horrible' and 'worse than Trump' in an undercover video released Tuesday by the watchdog group Project Veritas." The Times says that in the video, "London-based homepage editor Desiree Shoe" rips Trump and Pence "while acknowledging that 'our main stories are supposed to be objective. 'I feel like Trump is a just a sort of an idiot in a lot of ways, just an oblivious idiot,' she" says "in the hidden-camera footage apparently taken at a bar." Shoe added, "If you impeach him, then Pence becomes president, Mike Pence, who's f-ing horrible, I think maybe worse than Trump. I'm speaking off the record." The Times says that Shoe "has worked for the NYT since 2009."

Professor: New York Times' New Social Media Policy "Hide[s] Reporter Biases." The Washington Times (10/17, Richardson, 541K) reports that the New York Times' "new policy on social media may rid the paper of perceived bias, but critics say it leaves unchecked the actual bias permeating" its "reliably liberal pages." Said Cornell Law School professor William A. Jacobson, "I believe in transparency, and The New York Times' new social media guidelines achieve the opposite. The guidelines are designed to hide reporter biases that makes it harder for the public to judge the credibility of reporting. Particularly in an age where we are asked to accept anonymously sourced reporting on the Trump administration, the public should know more about the political biases of those asking us to trust them on sourcing." The New York Times' new "policy prohibits reporters from making social media posts that 'express partisan opinions, promote political views, endorse candidates, make offensive comments or do anything else that undercuts The Times' journalistic reputation.'"

Trump Warns McCain, "I Fight Back And It Won't Be Pretty." The CBS Evening News (10/17, story 4, 2:40, Mason, 11.17M) reported that after Sen. John McCain "blast[ed] President Trump's ideas with words like 'half-baked' and 'unpatriotic.'" The President on Tuesday "warned McCain to 'be careful.' The

Vietnam war hero shot back, 'I've faced tougher adversaries.'" The AP (10/17, Thomas) reports that in a radio interview, Trump said, "I'm being very, very nice but at some point I fight back and it won't be pretty." The New York Post (10/17, Fredericks, 4.31M) reports that the President also said that McCain's deciding vote against the recent Republican healthcare measure was a "shocker."

USA Today (10/17, Cummings, 8.62M) reports that McCain "did not mention the president by name" in his Monday speech, but Politico (10/17, Nelson, 3.6M) says that the remarks "were widely interpreted as a shot at Trump's political style, a mix of nationalism, populism and conservatism." The AP (10/17, Thomas) reports that McCain said, "To abandon the ideals we have advanced around the globe, to refuse the obligations of international leadership for the sake of some half-baked, spurious nationalism cooked up by people who would rather find scapegoats than solve problems, is as unpatriotic as an attachment to any other tired dogma of the past that Americans consigned to the ash heap of history." On Fox News' Fox & Friends (10/17, 8:38 a.m. EDT, 2.04M), Kellyanne Conway denied McCain's assertion that Trump engenders "half-baked, spurious nationalism." Conway said, "We hope we can rely on Sen. McCain's vote" on a number of issues. Fox News' Special Report (10/17, 2.32M) briefly reported on McCain's Monday night remark and Trump's response on Tuesday.

Biden: Trump's Behavior "Absolutely Bizarre." The AP (10/17) reports that former Vice President Joe Biden, who was presenting a medal to McCain at the National Constitution Center event on Monday, on Tuesday "called Trump's behavior 'absolutely bizarre.'" Biden said, "Violating the norms of personal conduct generates more anxiety and fear than any policy prescription that this president has enunciated. This breaking down of international and national norms is the glue that holds the liberal world order together, and holds together our system."

The Washington Times (10/17, Miller, 541K) reports that Biden and Ohio Gov. John Kasich were appearing together at a Delaware event to promote bipartisanship. The Washington Post (10/17, Kane, 10.38M) looks at the long relationship between Biden and McCain, who "have been on opposite sides of many crucial national security debates over the last 30 years,"

but who now find themselves to be "closely aligned...elder statesmen."

WPost Analysis: Trump Creates, Then Shoots Down Series Of "Political Villains."

Michael Scherer writes in the Washington Post (10/17, 10.38M) that President Trump has a practice of "conjuring and then belittling a political villain with little more than taps on a phone. ... In just the past few weeks, Trump has started, without any clear provocation, fights with football players who kneel during the national anthem, departments stores that declare 'happy holidays' instead of 'Merry Christmas,' and late-night television hosts for their 'unfunny and repetitive material.'" He has also gone after "individual targets" including Senate Minority Leader Schumer, Sen. Bob Corker, Hillary Clinton, Kim Jong-un, ESPN's Jemele Hill, "and a shifting array of reporters, newspapers and networks he labels as the 'fake news.'" Scherer says that Trump has used the tactic "for years – defining himself against a negative space, as a tough truth teller who opposes others."

White House Urges Corker To "Get Out Of The Name-Calling."

Politico (10/17, McCaskill, 3.6M) reports that White House press secretary Sarah Sanders, in a radio interview with Hugh Hewitt, said she was open to speaking with Sen. Bob Corker. Sanders said, "Sadly, Sen. Corker hasn't called me, but if he'd like to visit, I'd be happy to talk to him and certainly see if we could get him back on board and do, frankly, what the people of Tennessee elected him to do. ... Hopefully, he'll get out of the name-calling and get back to work here pretty soon."

White House Denies Trump Joked Pence Wanted To "Hang" Gays.

Politico (10/17, Nussbaum, 3.6M) reports that the White House is denying that President Trump has joked that Vice President Pence "wanted to 'hang' homosexuals as well as other details reported" in a New Yorker profile of Pence. In a statement, White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said, "From start to finish the article relied on fiction rather than facts. ... The suggestion that he would make such outrageous remarks is offensive and untrue." The New Yorker said it "stands by its reporting."

Senate Committee Subpoenas Page, Seeks Information From Flynn's Son.

USA Today (10/17, Kelly, 8.62M) reports that the Senate Intelligence Committee "has issued a subpoena to compel testimony and documents from former Trump campaign adviser Carter Page," according to a congressional aide. Investigators "have raised questions about Page's alleged ties to Russia, which were detailed in a controversial dossier by former British spy Christopher Steele." Reuters (10/17, Hosenball, Layne) reports that the panel has also asked Michael G. Flynn, the son of ex-National Security Adviser Michael Flynn, "to provide documents and testimony."

Mueller's Team Interviews Spicer. Politico (10/17, Karni, Dawsey, 3.6M) reports that special counsel Robert Mueller's team met Monday with former White House press secretary Sean Spicer "for an interview that lasted much of the day." According to people familiar with the meeting, Spicer was asked about President Trump's firing of FBI Director James Comey and Trump's meetings with Russians officials including Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov.

Mueller Interviewed Cybersecurity Researcher Tait. Business Insider (10/17, 3.83M) reports that Mueller himself has interviewed cybersecurity researcher Matt Tait, "who described being recruited to vet hacked Hillary Clinton emails last year by a GOP operative tied to" the Trump campaign team. The interview took place "several weeks ago."

Kushner Adds Harder To Legal Team. The Washington Examiner (10/17, Correll, 465K) reports that Jared Kushner has added attorney Charles Harder to his legal team. Harder "has represented Hulk Hogan and Melania Trump" and "previously represented Harvey Weinstein but discontinued representing him amid mounting sexual harassment and assault revelations."

Democrats Reportedly Impatient With Pace Of Russia Probes. Bloomberg News (10/17, Dennis, House, 4.52M) reports, "Some Democrats in Congress are growing impatient with how the GOP is handling" the Russia probes. Senate Judiciary Committee Democrats "say they want to see more urgency in that panel's efforts," while House Intelligence Committee ranking member Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA) "says the Trump administration is trying to pressure Congress into ending its investigations prematurely."

BuzzFeed Offers Some Information On Dossier, But Does Not Reveal Source. The Daily Caller (10/17, Ross, 521K) reports that BuzzFeed News has "provided a few new details about how it obtained the infamous Trump dossier," but it "is still refusing to identify its source" for the document. BuzzFeed reporter Ken Bensinger "revealed that he was granted access to the dossier in December after he became aware of 'intelligence reports alleging that there were connections between the Trump presidential campaign and the Russian government,' according to a declaration filed in federal court Monday in Miami."

FBI Uncovered Russian Bribery Plot Prior To US Approval Of 2010 Uranium Deal. Fox News' Tucker Carlson Tonight (10/17, 2.78M) reported "the FBI has uncovered evidence of a major Russian bribery effort just before the Obama Administration's approval of a deal back in 2010 that gave Russia control over large amounts of American uranium." The Hill (10/17, Solomon, Spann, 1.68M) reports that the FBI "had gathered substantial evidence that Russian nuclear industry officials were engaged in bribery, kickbacks, extortion and money laundering designed to grow Vladimir Putin's atomic energy business" inside the US.

Dan McLaughlin writes in the National Review (10/17, 892K) that this "could be a very big news story, if anyone is willing to follow up on it." Newt Gingrich said on Fox News' Hannity (10/17, 9:25 p.m. EDT, 4.05M) that this story indicates "levels of corruption and dishonesty on a scale that I can't remember in American history."

Obama UN Ambassador Says Unmasking Requests Were Made In Her Name. The Daily Caller (10/17, Ross, 521K) reports that Obama Administration UN Ambassador Samantha Power told the House Intelligence Committee last week that someone inside the Administration's "intelligence apparatus made requests to unmask the identity of Americans named in intelligence reports" in her name. Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-SC) told Fox News, "She would say those requests to unmask may have been attributed to her, but they greatly exceed by an exponential factor the requests she actually made."

Trump Says Fed Chairman Pick Coming Soon, Source Says Early

November. USA Today (10/17, Jackson, 8.62M) reports President Trump said Tuesday he will select the next Federal Reserve Board chairman “over the next fairly short period of time.” Addressing reporters at a joint news conference with Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, Trump also “all but confirmed” the reported list of five finalists: Former Fed governor Kevin Warsh, Stanford University economist John Taylor, current Fed Governor Jerome Powell, National Economic Council Director Gary Cohn, and current Chair Janet Yellen. He said, “I would say within those five you’ll probably get the answer.”

Reuters (10/17, Holland) reports Trump will likely announce his choice for next Fed chair before his trip to Asia in early November, according to a “source familiar with the situation.” The source “said announcing the choice by the time Trump leaves for Asia on Nov. 3 would give the Senate time for the confirmation process.”

WPost: Yellen Deserves A Second Term. In an editorial, the Washington Post (10/17, 10.38M) writes that President Trump should select Janet Yellen for a second term as Federal Reserve Chairman because of her experience with steadily raising interest rates and with the unwinding of the Fed’s asset purchasing program, her encouragement and defense of safeguards on financial institutions, and her relative flexibility compared with the other candidates. The Post concludes that her selection would signal the preservation of the Federal Reserve’s independence from politicization and “would send a reassuring message of continuity.”

Dow Tops 23,000 For First Time. NBC Nightly News (10/17, story 3, 2:20, Holt, 16.61M) reported the Dow Jones topped 23,000 for the first time on Tuesday before closing just shy of the 23,000 mark. The Dow has grown 16 percent since January 1, and the market altogether has climbed 28 percent since the election of President Trump.

USA Today (10/17, Shell, 8.62M) reports that Wall Street observers say the Dow’s continued rise has been driven by five key factors: rebounding economies around the world, strong US corporate earnings, low borrowing costs, anticipation of tax cuts, and large US companies’ benefiting from a weak dollar and stronger foreign economies.

Trump Calls On Americans To Say “Merry Christmas” During Holidays.

The Washington Times (10/17, Dinan, 541K) reports President Trump said Tuesday that Americans should be comfortable saying “Merry Christmas.” Commenting on stores that don’t use “Merry Christmas” in their displays, Trump said, “I want them to say Merry Christmas everybody, Happy New Year, Happy Holidays, but I want Merry Christmas.”

Trump Drops In Forbes 400 Ranking.

USA Today (10/17, McCoy, 8.62M) reports President Trump dropped in the annual Forbes magazine rankings of the wealthiest Americans after his fortune shrank by \$600 million, to \$3.1 billion – “dropping him from 156th place to 248th place in the 2017 Forbes 400 ranking, the magazine reported Tuesday.” Trump now is tied with Snapchat creator Evan Spiegel in the magazine’s 2017 ranking.

Trump DC Judicial Nominee Addresses Judiciary Committee.

The Washington Post (10/17, Marimow, Sullivan, 10.38M) reports that Gregory G. Katsas – President Trump’s judicial nominee for the US Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit and current deputy White House counsel – on Tuesday “told senators considering his nomination that he advised the Trump administration on the travel ban on residents of certain majority Muslim countries, ending protections for young undocumented immigrants and the president’s voter fraud commission.” During a two-hour hearing, Katsas also “sought to assure the Senate Judiciary Committee that he would recuse himself from any cases involving his work as a government lawyer.” The Post observes that Tuesday’s hearing comes as Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell “is intensifying efforts to install conservative jurists on the federal bench.”

Pruitt Seeks To Assure Senators Over Biofuels Mandate.

The Hill (10/17, Henry, Cama, 1.68M) reports EPA Administrator Pruitt “sought to reassure” Midwestern lawmakers on Tuesday that he supported the federal biofuels mandate. In a nearly hour-long meeting in Sen. Chuck Grassley’s Senate office that included Sens. Joni Ernst (R-IA), Ben Sasse (R-NE), and Deb Fischer (R-NE), Pruitt “made a political case for the ethanol mandate.” The meeting came amid

concerns from lawmakers in both parties about proposed changes to the Renewable Fuel Standard.

Sessions Creates Watchdog For Asset Forfeiture Program. The Washington Post (10/17, Horwitz, 10.38M) reports Attorney General Sessions is establishing a Justice Department watchdog to oversee the department's asset forfeiture program. In a memo Tuesday, Sessions "directed Deputy Attorney General Rod J. Rosenstein to hire a director to review all aspects of the department's policy and take action if problems arise." Rep. Darrell Issa, who criticized the department last summer when Sessions announced the asset forfeiture program, said Tuesday of the move, "It's nice to see at least some acknowledgment that civil forfeiture is in need of increased oversight, but the changes really don't go far enough and the core problem still remains."

Zinke Booster Now Expresses Concerns About His Public Land Policies. The Washington Post (10/17, Grandoni, 10.38M) reports that Backcountry Hunters & Anglers Executive Director Land Tawney backed fellow Montanan Ryan Zinke's nomination to lead the Interior Department, but is now raising concerns about Zinke's stance on public lands and his "approach to national monuments." Tawney "still has kind words for Zinke, calling him 'a proven leader.'" But "as to the question of whether he still regards him as an ally, Tawney split the difference." He said, "What we've always done is we've applauded [Zinke] for the things that we think he's doing that are beneficial to hunters and anglers, then we've held him accountable on the other end of that."

Chao Silent On Federal Money For Miami's Metrorail. The Miami Herald (10/17, Hanks, 701K) reports that Transportation Secretary Chao on Tuesday "deftly avoided" providing information about federal money for Miami's Metrorail during a press conference at Miami International Airport. Chao said, "Resources are an issue. It's a resource issue for all of us. ... From the whole country's point of view, the needs exceed the resources." Chao "didn't mention the issue" of money for expanding Metrorail but "did say the Trump administration may provide help to Miami-Dade beyond money."

Fox News Poll: Jones, Moore Tied At 42% In Dec. 12 Special Election. On its website, Fox News (10/17, Blanton, 12.87M) reported that a Fox News poll of 801 Alabama voters, taken Oct. 14-16, shows ex-US Attorney Doug Jones (D) and ex-state Supreme Court Justice Roy Moore (R) tied at 42% each in the Dec. 12 special election for the former seat of now-US Attorney General Jeff Sessions. Fox News added "that among just the 53 percent of Alabama registered voters who are extremely or very interested in the race, Jones" leads Moore 46%-45%. Fox News said that President Trump carried "Alabama by 28 points in 2016, yet the Steve Bannon-backed Moore defeated the president's favored candidate, incumbent Luther Strange, in the GOP primary."

The Hill (10/17, Thomsen, 1.68M) reported that the survey "also found that 42 percent of Moore's supporters had some doubts about the candidate, while 48 percent said they strongly support him in the race. Republicans were also less likely to support their nominee than Democrats were to support Jones, with 77 percent of GOP voters saying they'd back Moore. Eighty-five percent of Democrats said the same for Jones. Twenty-eight percent of Jones' backers said they had some reservations about him. But 21 percent of his supporters said they were voting against Moore rather than for Jones."

Rand Paul Backs Moore. The Hill (10/17, Shelbourne, 1.68M) reported that Sen. Rand Paul on Tuesday backed Moore's bid, saying in a statement, "Judge Roy Moore has spent a lifetime defending and standing up for the Constitution while fighting for the people of Alabama. We need more people in Washington, D.C. that will stand on principle and defend the Constitution." Writing for the Washington Examiner (10/17, Bedard, 465K), Paul Bedard described Paul's endorsement of Moore as "a huge show of support." Bedard added that Paul's backing "puts a stamp of approval on Moore's anti-Washington campaign which he rode to victory recently in a primary against Sen. Luther Strange, appointed earlier this year to replace former Sen. Jeff Sessions when he became the Attorney General."

Three Polls Show Virginia Governor's Race "Within The Margin Of Error." Three weeks before next month's election to succeed term-limited Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D), Politico (10/17, Shepard, 3.6M) reported that

a trio of “new public polls show” the battle between ex-RNC chief Ed Gillespie and Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam (D) “within the margin of error.” A Monmouth University survey of 408 Virginia likely voters, taken Oct. 12-16, shows Gillespie leading Northam 48%-47%, with Libertarian Cliff Hyra at 3% and 3% undecided. Northam led 49%-44% in last month’s poll. Meanwhile, a Christopher Newport University survey of 642 Virginia likely voters, taken Oct. 9-13, shows Northam leading Gillespie 48%-44%, with Hyra at 3% and 5% undecided. Northam led 49%-42% in last week’s poll. And a Roanoke College poll of 607 Virginia likely voters, taken Oct. 8-13, shows Northam leading Gillespie 50%-44%, with Hyra at 2% and 4% undecided. Northam led 47%-43% in last month’s poll. The Hill (10/17, Hagen, 1.68M) reported that the Monmouth survey “is the first public poll that shows Gillespie leading.” The Washington Free Beacon (10/17, Crookston, 158K) also reports on the results of three polls released on Tuesday.

Democrat Northam Has Over Twice As Much Cash On Hand Than Gillespie. The AP (10/17, Suderman) reports that Northam holds “a hefty cash advantage over” Gillespie ahead of next month’s election. Northam collected over “\$7 million in September and had about \$5.7 million in the bank at the end of the month.” Gillespie, meanwhile, raised “\$4.4 million, with \$2.5 million cash on hand for the same period.” Gillespie “enjoyed a cash advantage over Northam after the June primaries but has struggled to match the Democrat’s fundraising prowess in recent months.” The Washington Post (10/17, Nirappil, 10.38M) reports, “Republicans attributed the fundraising lag to a variety of reasons, including donors who were tuned out after the presidential contest and an unfavorable political climate for the GOP in Virginia.”

Two Polls Show Democrat Murphy Up Double Digits In New Jersey Governor’s Race. NJ News (10/17, Brodesser-Akner, 1.21M) reported that a Farleigh Dickinson University PublicMind poll of 658 New Jersey likely voters, taken Oct. 11-15, shows ex-Goldman Sachs executive Phil Murphy (D) leading Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno (R-NJ) 47%-32% in next month’s election to succeed term-limited Gov. Chris Christie (R-NJ). On its website, Fox News (10/17, Balara, 12.87M) reported that a Fox News poll of 679 New Jersey likely voters, taken

Oct. 14-16, shows Murphy leading Guadagno 47%-33%.

Obama Joining Parade Of Democrats Who’ve Stumped For Murphy. The New York Times (10/17, Corasaniti, Burns, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports, “An Obama administration reunion tour is unfolding in New Jersey, as a cavalcade of Democratic luminaries has paraded into the state in recent days, including former Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr., former Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez and former Secretary of State John Kerry, urging voters to” back Murphy’s bid. The Times adds that President Obama is slated to stump with Murphy “on Thursday at a rally in Newark, making his first public foray on the campaign trail in support of a Democratic candidate since leaving office. And Hillary Clinton will be a guest of honor at a closed-door fund-raiser for Mr. Murphy on Sunday in Harrison, N.J., her first campaign event since last year’s election.” Murphy served as ambassador to Germany in the Obama Administration.

Democrats Blast Guadagno Over “Bridgegate.” The AP (10/17) reports that the Murphy camp on Tuesday received “a boost from the mayor whose town was gridlocked in the so-called Bridgegate scandal. Democratic Mayor of Fort Lee Mark Sokolich joined fellow Democrats Rep. Bill Pascrell, state Sen. Loretta Weinberg and Hoboken Mayor Dawn Zimmer Tuesday to attack...Guadagno” on “the same day Murphy unveiled a new 30-second TV spot that says Christie and Guadagno’s biggest triumph ‘was a traffic jam.’ Two former allies of Christie’s were convicted in federal court in the 2013 political payback scheme that saw local access lanes to the George Washington Bridge closed.”

Pence’s Fundraiser Benefiting Collins Draws “About 80” Protesters. The Buffalo (NY) News (10/17, O’Brien, 362K) reports, “About 80 people protested outside a suburban Buffalo restaurant Tuesday as Vice President Pence arrived to raise” cash for Rep. Chris Collins (R-NY), “one of the Trump administration’s staunchest backers in Congress.” The News adds that Collins, “with Pence’s help, expects to raise \$400,000 at [the] event.”

California House Republicans Get Large Financial Boost From PAC’s Fundraiser With Pence. The Los Angeles Times (10/17, Mai-Duc, 4.49M) reports, “California

Republican House members have received more than \$1 million from a committee that recently benefited from a fundraiser with Vice President Pence. California Victory 2018 – a joint fundraising committee that helps” PACs “belonging to Pence and Rep. Kevin McCarthy as well as congressional campaign accounts of McCarthy and seven California Republicans – received proceeds from a string of Pence fundraisers across the state last week.”

Endorsing Flake Primary Foe Ward, Bannon Rips McConnell, Senate Republicans.

The AP (10/17, Beaumont, Christie) reports that ex-White House chief strategist Steve Bannon on Tuesday “doubled down on his criticism of the GOP establishment” during a fundraising event benefiting ex-state Sen. Kelli Ward (R-AZ), who is mounting a 2018 primary challenge to Sen. Jeff Flake (R-AZ). Appearing in Scottsdale, Bannon “heaped disdain on Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and other incumbent Republicans, saying they failed President Donald Trump by not backing his agenda and are openly critical of their own president.” Said Bannon, who was joined at Tuesday’s event by conservative talk show host Laura Ingraham, “If you saw how they try to rip him apart every day, how they are trying to destroy him every day. And yes, I’m talking about Mitch McConnell and the Senate Republicans.”

The Arizona Republic (10/17, Nowicki, 968K) reports that Bannon’s appearance “was the biggest indicator to date that the allies of...Trump are settling on Ward as their preferred challenger to Flake.” The Republic adds that Bannon blasted McConnell, “and vowed that the Republican elite are destined to ‘reap the whirlwind’ and ‘that whirlwind is Kelli Ward.’” The “remarks were another salvo in the ‘war’ Bannon has declared on the GOP establishment. ‘It’s an open revolt, and it should be,’ Bannon said before introducing Ward at her campaign’s formal kickoff event.”

Politico Analysis: Some Bannon Candidates Also Backed By GOP Establishment. Politico (10/17, Karni, 3.6M) reports that Steve Bannon recently backed state Auditor Matt Rosendale’s (R) Montana Senate bid “as part of his war on the GOP establishment.” However, Bannon’s “interest in Rosendale – as well as many of the other candidates” he’s backing – “has some Washington GOP power brokers confused by his definition of ‘anti-

establishment.’” For months, the National Republican Senatorial Committee has been media training Rosendale,” who’s “also a client of the consulting firm On Message, Inc., one of the most ‘establishment’ consulting firms in Washington.” Politico added, “The overlap between the ‘establishment-backed’ candidates and those Bannon is elevating in hopes of taking down the establishment has some accusing him of being more interested in a one-man show than his ‘season of war against a GOP establishment.’”

Nicholson Hails “Huge Endorsement” By Bannon In GOP Primary. In a report on Sen. Tammy Baldwin’s (D-WI) 2018 reelection race, the AP (10/17, Bauer) focuses on the GOP primary, saying that businessman Kevin Nicholson (R) has “won the backing of former presidential strategist Steve Bannon in Wisconsin’s US Senate race, a surprise move that sent shockwaves Tuesday through the” Republican contest. Nicholson is battling state Sen. Leah Vukmir (R-WI) in the GOP primary. The AP says, “The endorsement by a political action committee backed by Bannon,” the Great America PAC, “comes after both Nicholson and Vukmir met separately in private with Bannon.” Nicholson “tweeted on Tuesday that he was ‘humbled by this huge endorsement’ by Bannon.”

Hill Analysis: Trump’s Support Gives Barletta Edge In Crowded Primary. In a report on Sen. Bob Casey’s (D-PA) 2018 reelection race, The Hill (10/17, Kamisar, Hagen, 1.68M) said that Rep. Lou Barletta (R-PA) “is seen as the leading GOP candidate to take on” the incumbent Democrat, “with his chances boosted further after a de facto endorsement from President Trump last week. During a Harrisburg, Pa., rally last Wednesday, Trump lauded” Barletta “as a ‘great guy’ who will ‘win big,’” and “then repeated the praise during an interview with Fox News host Sean Hannity. Trump’s praise will give Barletta, an early Trump endorser during the presidential race and a key campaign surrogate, a major bump in a crowded primary field that also includes wealthy real estate developer Jeff Bartos.”

Eight Democrats On CNN’s List Of “10 Senate Seats Most Likely To Switch Parties” In 2018. On its website, CNN (10/17, Bradner, 33.59M) offered its list of “the 10 Senate seats most likely to switch parties in the

November 2018 midterms.” Topping the list is the seat of Sen. Dean Heller (R-NV), followed by those of Sens. Claire McCaskill (D-MO); Jeff Flake (R-AZ); Joe Donnelly (D-IN); Joe Manchin (D-WV); Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND); Sherrod Brown (D-OH); Jon Tester (D-MT); Tammy Baldwin (D-WI); and Bill Nelson (D-FL).

Hawley Spokesman Sidesteps Question On Whether Candidate Would Back McConnell. McClatchy

(10/17, Wise, 67K) reports that state Attorney Gen. Josh Hawley (R-MO), “Republicans’ top recruit to” take on Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-MO) in next year’s election, “won’t commit to voting for Mitch McConnell as Senate Republican leader if elected in 2018.” Asked if the GOP hopeful would back McConnell, Hawley campaign spokesman Scott Paradise “deflected the question,” saying in an email, “The Senate is broken and failing the people of Missouri. Josh is running because he is not willing to tolerate the failure of the D.C. establishment any longer. He won’t tolerate Claire McCaskill’s failure. And he won’t tolerate Republican failure, either.”

McCaskill Acknowledges “Sloppy” Mistake In Claiming She Was Out When Controversial Bill Passed. The Springfield (MO) News-Leader (10/17, Shesgreen, 61K) reports that McCaskill on Tuesday “said she was wrong when she asserted she’d been undergoing breast cancer treatment on March 17, 2016 – the day the Senate passed legislation undermining the Drug Enforcement Agency’s ability to stop suspicious shipments of opioids to what they feared were pill-mills and illicit pharmacies.” The bill “dramatically undercut the DEA’s efforts to staunch the flow of millions of opioid pills into communities across the country, according to an investigation by the Washington Post and ‘60 Minutes,’ published on Sunday.” Speaking on “Monday with CNN, McCaskill said she didn’t go along with the bill and was out for breast cancer treatment when it passed.” On Tuesday, however, McCaskill “said her statements on Monday were a ‘sloppy embarrassing mistake.’”

SLF Unveils Microsite Targeting Democrat Donnelly On Outsourcing.

The Hill (10/17, Kamisar, 1.68M) reported that the Senate Leadership Fund (SLF), a super PAC aligned with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, on Tuesday was to unveil “a new

microsite” hitting Sen. Joe Donnelly (D-IN) “over revelations from this summer that he earned profit from a family company that outsourced jobs to Mexico. The new website is called ‘MexicoJoe.com,’ a nod to the pejorative nickname that Republicans have bestowed upon Donnelly since the news broke over the summer. It will be a central hub for the SLF’s attacks on Donnelly, hosting content including video and news clippings.” Donnelly faces reelection next year.

Nelson Raises Nearly \$1.8M In Q3, Has \$6.3M Banked For Reelection Race.

The Tampa Bay (FL) Times (10/17, Leary, 877K) reports that Sen. Bill Nelson (D-FL), who faces reelection next year, “raised \$1.75 million in the third quarter of 2017 and now has \$6.3 million cash-on-hand. The haul comes as Nelson suspended his campaign for several weeks due to the hurricanes, an aide said.” Florida Gov. Rick Scott (R), who is term-limited in 2018, is expected to challenge Nelson in next year’s election.

Testimony Continues In Menendez’s Federal Corruption Trial.

In continuing coverage of the federal corruption trial of Sen. Bob Menendez (D) and his longtime friend and donor, eye doctor Salomon Melgen, Bloomberg News (10/17, Weinberg, Voreacos, 4.52M) reports that Menendez’s attorneys on Tuesday “sought to show jurors that the New Jersey Democrat was motivated by a desire to improve public policy and not by corrupt intent when he intervened in a Medicare billing dispute at the heart of” the prosecution’s case. Testifying for the defense, “Washington lobbyist Alan Reider” discussed “how he helped Melgen contest accusations that he overbilled for Lucentis, a macular degeneration drug that costs doctors \$2,000. Reider, a health care lawyer, said he argued to Menendez that Medicare policy that prevented multiple doses of Lucentis from a single bottle was confusing and contradictory.” Reider “said his briefing with Menendez in 2012 focused on the multidosing policy rather than Melgen’s dispute with the government.”

Politico (10/17, Friedman, 3.6M) reported that Reider “said he learned of at least six other doctors who were concerned about ‘multi-dosing,’ even though prosecutors have argued only Melgen had an interest in changing the

government's policy on the issue." Reider, "who testified that he had briefly registered as a lobbyist when representing Melgen" as an attorney, "met with Menendez, who later raised the multi-dosing issue with everyone from bureaucrats at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to then-Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius. Prosecutors say those meetings were favors Menendez did for Melgen...in exchange for private jet flights, vacations and hundreds of thousands of dollars in campaign contributions."

The New York Times (10/17, Wang, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that testifying on Tuesday, "Melgen's wife, Flor Melgen, was alternately subdued and defiant in answering questions about the relationship between her husband and Mr. Menendez." The Times adds that at one point, "after Kirk Ogrosky, a lawyer for Dr. Melgen, asked whether Ms. Melgen had expected to receive anything in return for her donations to Mr. Menendez's campaigns, she replied no. But she then began to explain in Spanish, through an interpreter, that 'every citizen who lives in this country' might expect a return from a candidate who could 'do good for the community.'"

The AP (10/17, Porter) reports that Ms. Melgen "recalled how then-Republican Florida Gov. Charlie Crist showed up at her Palm Beach County home unannounced in October 2010, when he was running for Senate as an independent. Crist apparently was hoping Menendez, at the time the chair of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, was there that night, she testified. He wasn't, but Crist wound up dining and staying overnight. He reimbursed the Melgens \$100 for the dinner. 'So at least one politician knows how to pay your husband back,' Justice Department attorney Monique Abrishami said. Defense attorneys immediately objected, and US District Judge William Walls cautioned jurors to disregard attorneys' 'throwaway questions.'"

NJ News (10/17, Moriarty, Spoto, 1.21M) reports, "Defense attorneys raised the subject of [Crist's reimbursement] to try to address the issue of one of the flights prosecutors allege Menendez took on Melgen's dime as part of a bribe. The defense has argued Menendez should not have been charged in that instance because, they say, that Oct. 9 to 11, 2010, trip to Florida was

campaign-related and should have been reimbursed by the DSCC."

Poll: 73% Of New Jersey Voters Say Menendez Should Resign Immediately, If Convicted. Meanwhile, Fox News (10/17, Balara, 12.87M) reported on its website that in a Fox News poll of 679 New Jersey likely voters, taken Oct. 14-16, 63% of those surveyed said that Menendez "should resign immediately," if convicted of the corruption charges, while 19% said "he should wait until the next governor is in office."

Pence: If Convicted, It Would Be "Inappropriate And Wrong" For Menendez To Remain In Senate. The Washington Times (10/17, Persons, 541K) reports that during a Tuesday interview with conservative radio host Hugh Hewitt, Vice President Pence said that having Menendez continue to serve in the Senate "would be 'inappropriate' if he's convicted in his federal corruption case." Said Pence, "I think that'll be a decision for members of the Senate. But having a convicted felon in the United States Senate, I think, would be altogether inappropriate and wrong."

New Wildfires Emerge In Santa Cruz Mountains. ABC World News Tonight (10/17, story 5, 1:55, Muir, 14.63M) reported that "as firefighters make progress on the devastating wildfires" in California, new fires emerged in the Santa Cruz Mountains on Tuesday night, leaving five firefighters injured. Sutter Santa Rosa Regional Hospital (SSRRH) evacuated all 77 patients. SSRRH Chief Nursing Executive Robin Allen said, "We believe over 30 physicians at this facility lost their homes, as well as over 40 staff members."

Sonoma Sheriff Denies Reports Linking Wildfires To Arson-Related Arrest. The Redding (CA) Record-Searchlight (10/17, Sandhu, Longoria, 59K) reports that on Tuesday, Breitbart News and InfoWars "attempted to link the Sunday arrest of" Latino man Jesus Fabian Gonzalez "on suspicion of arson in Sonoma to the massive, deadly cluster of wildfires burning in California's wine country," but the outlets "offered no evidence to link the man's arrest to the fires and their accounts of the man's arrest were disputed the same day by Sonoma County Sheriff Rob Giordano." Giordano said in a news conference, "There's a story out there he's the arsonist for

these fires. That is not the case. There is no indication he is related to these fires at all."

Weinstein Resigns From His Company; Amazon Exec Steps Down.

NBC Nightly News (10/17, story 7, 2:10, Holt, 16.61M) reported Harvey Weinstein on Tuesday officially resigned from the board of his company as more than 50 women accuse him of sexual harassment or assault. The head of Amazon Studios also resigned Tuesday amid sexual harassment allegations, and executive producer Amanda Segel now is accusing Weinstein's brother, Bob Weinstein, of harassing her. The CBS Evening News (10/17, story 9, 0:25, Mason, 11.17M) reported that Spike TV has said it is investigating Segel's claims. A spokesman for Bob Weinstein has "denied the charges."

ABC World News Tonight (10/17, story 4, 2:15, Muir, 14.63M) reported that "other Hollywood A-listers are coming forward with their own experiences" of harassment and assault, with actress Reese Witherspoon claiming she was abused by a "Hollywood director" and Jennifer Lawrence making her own claims.

Women Denounce Harassment In California's State Legislature.

The New York Times (10/17, Nagourney, Medina, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that more than 140 women – "including legislators, senior legislative aides and lobbyists" – have drafted a letter denouncing "what they describe as pervasive sexual misconduct by powerful men" in California's state legislature. Women "complained of groping, lewd comments and suggestions of trading sexual favors for legislation while doing business in Sacramento." The letter "comes as the scandal involving Mr. Weinstein had set off a wave of investigations, recriminations and accusations across the nation, including in state capitals in Rhode Island and South Dakota."

NYTimes A1: Secretive "Self-Help" Group For Women Requires Members To Be Branded.

In a front-page story, the New York Times (10/17, A1, Meier, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports on the inner workings of a secretive "self-help" organization, called Nxivm, where women, in order to gain admission, "were required to give their recruiter...naked photographs or other compromising material" to ensure their silence about the group and then

were "branded" with a cauterizing device. Since the late 1990s, "an estimated 16,000 people have enrolled in courses offered by Nxivm (pronounced Nex-e-um), which it says are designed to bring about greater self-fulfillment by eliminating psychological and emotional barriers." With recent revelations of the "secret sisterhood and branding," scores of members are leaving the organization, and interviews with a dozen of them "portray a group spinning more deeply into disturbing practices."

Trump Accuser Describes Earlier Harassment Experience.

In a USA Today (10/17, 8.62M) op-ed, journalist Natasha Stoenoff – who wrote last year in People about being harassed by Donald Trump during a 2005 interview – describes her experience being sexually harassed by an unnamed actor 30 years ago. Stoenoff writes that women are beginning to open up about their experiences of harassment and assault. Women "are not afraid anymore, and there is no room in this world for men of this ilk."

Pence Says Walking Out Of Colts Game Was "Right Thing To Do."

WXIN-TV Indianapolis (10/17, 178K) reports online that Vice President Pence said Tuesday that his decision to walk out from an Indianapolis Colts game after players knelt during the national anthem was the right choice. In a radio interview with WIBC-FM's Tony Katz, Pence said, "You know we had had plans for a long time to attend that game. Karen and I were looking very much forward to it, but frankly when we saw that so many players took a knee on the sideline we thought it was the right thing to do to leave." Pence did say he and President Trump had discussed the situation before he came to Indianapolis, and he added that while "everybody is entitled to their opinion...the president and I believe it's not too much to ask for all players to respect our soldiers, respect our flag, respect our national anthem, and that's why we left."

In addition to providing video of Pence's interview with Tony Katz, WIBC-FM Indianapolis (10/17, 7K) reports online that Pence also discussed the Administration's domestic and foreign policy accomplishments and the importance of tax reform. Pence said, "And before the end of this year we're going to cut taxes for working-class families and small businesses all across America."

NFL Owners, Players Meet To Discuss Anthem Protests. NBC Nightly News (10/17, story 13, 0:20, Holt, 16.61M) reported that NFL team owners and players met on Tuesday in New York to discuss league protocol on kneeling during the national anthem. While the two sides “called the meeting productive,” there was no agreement reached on the anthem protests. During the meeting, protests “erupted” outside.

ABC World News Tonight (10/17, lead story, 2:25, Muir, 14.63M) reported NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell announced Tuesday evening that owners did not ask the players to stand for the national anthem. Players at the meeting said progress was made on bringing attention to the reasons that some were kneeling. Players and owners “are expected to get together to discuss” the kneeling issue again “within the next couple of weeks.”

Google Serves “Fake News” Ads On Fact-Checking Sites, NYTimes Finds.

A New York Times (10/17, Wakabayashi, Qiu, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) investigation found that enticing fake “headlines served as bait to draw readers to fraudulent sites that masqueraded as mainstream news sites, such as People and Vogue.” The Times found that “fake publishers used Google’s AdWords system to place the advertisements on websites that fit their broad parameters,” including, ironically, “PolitiFact and Snopes, fact-checking sites created precisely to dispel such falsehoods.” The article highlights opinion that this investigation’s finding underscores the challenges of avoiding so-called “fake news.”

National Archives Warned Administration To Preserve Documents. Politico (10/17, Dawsey, Bender, 3.6M) cites sources and documents as indicating “National Archives officials have periodically warned White House lawyers that the Trump administration needs to follow document preservation laws.” National Archives officials reportedly “told the White House counsel’s office they were concerned that wasn’t happening, particularly early in the administration.” In addition, the nonpartisan watchdog group Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics “is suing the Trump administration over its adherence to the record law, citing the use by White House officials of encrypted smartphone apps to communicate,

such as Confide and Signal, which are designed to delete data.”

Bipartisan Group To Urge Trump To Alter Policing Policies. The New York Times (10/17, Haberman, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that a “broad coalition” of law enforcement officials and activists “is expected to urge President Trump on Wednesday to adjust policies on policing and criminality, the first time such a group has spoken out against the Trump administration.” According to the Times, “some of the nation’s most prominent prosecutors, police chiefs and criminal justice overhaul advocates,” including Sen. Thom Tillis (R-NC) and “representatives from the conservative Koch brothers network,” will meet in Washington, DC for the National Law Enforcement Summit. Former Attorney General Eric Holder and Sally Q. Yates, “the acting attorney general whom Mr. Trump abruptly fired in the first few days of his presidency, will speak.” The presenters “are expected to pose the challenge to Mr. Trump, who ran in 2016 as a ‘law and order’ candidate but whose attorney general’s policies – as well as Mr. Trump’s own messaging – have come under increasing criticism from local law enforcement officials.”

Open Society Discloses \$18 Billion In Donations From Georges Soros. On its front page, the Wall Street Journal (10/17, A1, Chung, Das, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports that Open Society Foundations said Tuesday that in recent years, George Soros has moved about \$18 billion of his money into Open Society. Soros reportedly has no plans to trade the billions now belonging to Open Society, as his family office manages the endowment. The article outlines causes supported by Open Society, including immigration reform, US criminal justice reform, mentoring programs for black and Latino young men, and indirectly, the Black Lives Matter movement.

The New York Times (10/17, Gelles, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that this makes Open Society “the second largest foundation in the United States by assets, according to the National Philanthropic Trust.” The Times mentions that Soros had wrongly bet against the stock market after Trump was elected.

Duckworth: Congress Seeking To Remove Protections For Disabled.

In a Washington Post (10/17, 10.38M) op-ed, Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) writes that Congress – led by “special interests” in the hospitality and retail industries – are working to undermine the Americans with Disabilities Act by offering legislation that seeks “to shift the burden of ADA compliance away from business owners and onto individuals with disabilities.” She argues that if Congress passes the “misguided” ADA Education and Reform Act, “it would send a disgraceful message to Americans with disabilities that their civil rights are not worthy of strong enforcement.”

WSJournal Decries Court Ruling Absolving Prosecutors For Using False Information.

The Wall Street Journal (10/17, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) editorializes about Tuesday’s ruling by the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals that absolved prosecutors for the use of false information in the prosecution of hedge fund founder David Ganek. Ganek had sued the prosecutors, seeking damages after the prosecution had put his hedge fund out of business. The appeals court ruled that the prosecutors were immune from liability. The Journal calls this another example of abusive behavior by prosecutors, and it urges the Justice Department to investigate the incident and to discipline the prosecutors.

WSJournal Applauds Gov. Brown’s Veto Of Campus Sexual Assault Bill.

The Wall Street Journal (10/17, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) editorial board praises California Governor Jerry Brown’s (D) Sunday veto of a bill that would have codified the Obama Administration’s “Dear Colleague” guidance, which said universities would lose federal funds if they did not create courts to litigate Title IX campus sexual assault claims. The Journal urges politicians to stay focused on their principles in spite of desire to buck the Trump Administration.

WPost Offers Farewell To Former Communications Vice President.

In an editorial, the Washington Post (10/17, 10.38M) writes offers a farewell message for The Post’s former vice president of communications, Vincent E. Reed, who died Tuesday at the age of 89. The Post says Reed “leaves a rich legacy” in the lives of the students who benefited from the school he

created – Benjamin Banneker Academic High School – and the educators “helped by the support and guidance he provided from his position at The Post.”

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP

New York Times. *“Mr Trump Outdoes Himself In Picking A Conflicted Regulator.”* A New York Times (10/17, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) editorial says President Trump has “made a habit of filling important jobs with people dedicated to undermining the laws they’re supposed to administer while pampering the industries they’re supposed to regulate,” and “yet no nomination has been as brazen, as dangerous to public health and as deserving of Senate rejection as that of Michael Dourson to run the EPA office in charge of reviewing chemicals used in agriculture, industry and household products.” Dourson’s nomination is “enthusiastically endorsed by the chemical industry,” but “horrifies environmental groups, public health advocates, firefighters and scientists.” The Times says it “would take just a few Republicans to block the nomination,” and urges senators to “think hard about the impact their votes could have on the health of Americans for years to come.”

Washington Post. *“Janet Yellen Deserves A Second Term As Fed Chair.”* In an editorial, the Washington Post (10/17, 10.38M) writes that President Trump should select Janet Yellen for a second term as Federal Reserve Chairman because of her experience with steadily raising interest rates and with the unwinding of the Fed’s asset purchasing program, her encouragement and defense of safeguards on financial institutions, and her relative flexibility compared with the other candidates. The Post concludes that her selection would signal the preservation of the Federal Reserve’s independence from politicization and “would send a reassuring message of continuity.”

“The Hope For Change In Venezuela Suffers A Crushing Blow.” A Washington Post (10/17, 10.38M) editorial says “hopes that Venezuela could emerge from its catastrophic political and economic collapse by democratic means suffered a crushing and perhaps terminal blow on Sunday” when the government of Nicolás Maduro staged elections for provincial governors. Polls showed the opposition, “which reluctantly

agreed to participate, would win up to two-thirds of the races,” and yet the results “announced by pro-regime election authorities were nearly the opposite.” The Post argues that Sunday’s result suggests that a free and fair democratic election in Venezuela “is no longer possible.”

“Saying Farewell To A Local Icon Of National Renown.” In an editorial, the Washington Post (10/17, 10.38M) writes offers a farewell message for The Post’s former vice president of communications, Vincent E. Reed, who died Tuesday at the age of 89. The Post says Reed “leaves a rich legacy” in the lives of the students who benefited from the school he created – Benjamin Banneker Academic High School – and the educators “helped by the support and guidance he provided from his position at The Post.”

Wall Street Journal. *“The Realtors Take A Tax Hostage.”* In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (10/17, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) writes that The National Association of Realtors’ attack on GOP tax legislation is based upon their desire to keep middle-class tax rates high to preserve their mortgage interest deduction subsidy. The Journal concludes that Republicans should stand firm against the housing lobby’s efforts against the GOP plan.

“Jerry Brown’s Title IX Veto.” The Wall Street Journal (10/17, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) editorial board praises California Governor Jerry Brown’s (D) Sunday veto of a bill that would have codified the Obama Administration’s “Dear Colleague” guidance, which said universities would lose federal funds if they did not create courts to litigate Title IX campus sexual assault claims. The Journal urges politicians to stay focused on their principles in spite of desire to buck the Trump Administration.

“Prosecutorial Impunity.” The Wall Street Journal (10/17, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) editorializes about Tuesday’s ruling by the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals that absolved prosecutors for the use of false information in the prosecution of hedge fund founder David Ganek. Ganek had sued the prosecutors, seeking damages after the prosecution had put his hedge fund out of business. The appeals court ruled that the prosecutors were immune from liability. The Journal calls this another example of abusive behavior by prosecutors, and it urges the Justice Department to investigate the incident and to discipline the prosecutors.

THE BIG PICTURE

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

WALL STREET JOURNAL:

Senators Reach Deal To Shore Up Health Markets
Soros Transfers \$18 Billion To Foundation, Creating Instant Giant
US-Backed Forces Say They Have Taken Last Islamic State Urban Stronghold
The Other Brother: Bob Weinstein Was An Abusive Boss

NEW YORK TIMES:

2 Senators Strike Deal On Health Subsidies That Trump Cut Off
Raqqa, ISIS ‘Capital,’ Is Captured, US-Backed Forces Say
As Party Gathers, Xi Jinping Displays A Firm Grip On Power
Inside A Secretive Group Where Women Are Branded
Navy SEALs Were Ready If Pakistan Failed To Free Family Held As Hostages
Women Denounce Harassment In California’s Capital

WASHINGTON POST:

Latest Healthcare Effort Quickly Stalls
US-Backed Force Says Raqqa Free Of ISIS
Despite Decision Against Uber, London’s Rivalry Between Traditional, Modern Transit Continues
Drug Czar Pick Bows Out Amid Criticism Of Law Judge Largely Halts Latest Version Of Travel Ban

FINANCIAL TIMES:

US-Backed Forces Claim Victory Over ISIS In Raqqa As Jihadis Flee
Airbus Challenges Boeing With Vow To Create US Jobs
Wall St Banks Boosted By Lending To Rich Clients

Washington Times:

Trump Supports Bipartisan Short-Term Fix To Stabilize Obamacare
Judge Blocks Trump’s Travel Ban For Third Time
Islamic State’s ‘Caliphate’ Dissolves, But Ideology, Operations Spread Around World
New York Times’ Social Media Policy Only Hides Political Bias, Doesn’t Eliminate It
Biden And Kasich Claim Political Center, Turn Bipartisan Talk Against Trump

After Year In Coffin, Thai King's Body Prepared For Royal Cremation

STORY LINEUP FROM LAST NIGHT'S NETWORK NEWS:

ABC: NFL Owners Meeting; Bipartisan Healthcare Plan; White House-Fallen Soldiers Call; Weinstein Sexual Harassment Scandal; California Wildfires; Travel Restriction Blocked; Syria-Raqqa Assault; Ohio-Police Violence; Cold Medicine Murder; Texas Air Balloon Crash Investigation; Ford Explorers-Call For Recall; Aspiring Kid.

CBS: Opioid Epidemic-Marino Nomination Withdrawn; Opioid Epidemic-Hard Hit Area; Texas Air Balloon Crash Investigation; McCain, Biden-Trump Criticisms; White House-Fallen Soldiers Call; Syria-Raqqa Assault; Ford Explorers-Call For Recall; Travel Restriction Blocked; Weinstein Sexual Harassment Scandal; Young Political Candidates.

NBC: White House-Fallen Soldiers Call; Bipartisan Healthcare Plan; Wall Street Records; Opioid Epidemic-Marino Nomination Withdrawn; Opioid Epidemic-Chinese Imports; Travel Restriction Blocked; Weinstein Sexual Harassment Scandal; United Overbooking Investigation; Texas Air Balloon Crash Investigation; Syria-Raqqa Assault; Ford Explorers-Call For Recall; NFL Owners Meeting; GMO Apple; Brooklyn-Loose Cow; Creative Chemistry Class.

NETWORK TV AT A GLANCE:

White House-Fallen Soldiers Call – 8 minutes, 15 seconds

Opioid Epidemic – 6 minutes, 25 seconds

Syria-Raqqa Assault – 6 minutes, 15 seconds

Weinstein Sexual Harassment Scandal – 4 minutes, 50 seconds

Ford Explorers-Call For Recall – 4 minutes, 20 seconds

Travel Restriction Blocked – 1 minute, 20 seconds

STORY LINEUP FROM THIS MORNING'S RADIO NEWS BROADCASTS:

ABC: Travel Restriction Blocked; Bipartisan Healthcare Plan; NFL Owners Meeting; Maryland-Hate Crime Trial; Wall Street News.

CBS: Bipartisan Healthcare Plan; Travel Restriction Blocked; Opioid Epidemic; White House-Fallen Soldiers Call; California Wildfires.

FOX: Bipartisan Healthcare Plan; California Wildfires; Weinstein Sexual Harassment Scandal.

NPR: Travel Restriction Blocked; California Wildfires; NFL Owners Meeting; Amazon Sexual Harassment Scandal.

LAST LAUGHS

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: “They have a policy where if an animal escapes a slaughterhouse, it gets to go free. Isn’t that great? The bull is being sent to a rehabilitation facility for misbehaving cows. That’s the good news. The bad news is it is also where they sent Harvey Weinstein.”

Trevor Noah: “Speaking of hairy creatures, yesterday President Trump held a surprise press conference with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, which is kind of the worst surprise ever. ‘Surprise, I brought Mitch McConnell!’ Boo! What kind of surprise party is [with] Mitch McConnell?”

Trevor Noah: “I don’t know, something’s fishy here. They sound less like real friends and more like Trump trying to get Mitch a green card. ‘This gentleman, I’m going to say Mitch, right, Mr. Immigration Officer, this relationship is special, it’s so special.’ ‘That’s what you said about Melania.’”

Trevor Noah: “See what [President Trump] said? ‘President Obama never called. I call and I write. I also haven’t called and I didn’t write. But I do, except when I don’t, which is now.’”

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